1 BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF OREGON 3 In the Matter of the 4 Teaching License of) **DEFAULT ORDER** 5 THOMAS GLENN GRIFFITH REVOKING LICENSE 6 7 On June 28, 1996, Walter J. Todd, Attorney for Thomas Glenn Griffith, 8 submitted Griffith's Oregon Teaching License to TSPC pursuant to a plea 9 agreement in Marion County Circuit Court. On August 5, 1996, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission informed Thomas Glenn Griffith that the 10 11 Commission found sufficient evidence of violation of Standards for Competent 12 and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators to warrant a hearing regarding 13 his plea of guilty and conviction in Marion County Circuit Court on two counts 14 of Sex Abuse III. The letter and Notice of Opportunity for Hearing was mailed 15 U. S. Certified Mail--Return Receipt Requested to Walter J Todd, Attorney for 16 Griffith. The certified mail receipt #P 196 850 418 was signed on August 8, 17 1996 and received by TSPC on August 9, 1996. Mr. Griffith did not request a 18 hearing. 19 FINDINGS OF FACT Thomas Glenn Griffith holds a Standard Teaching License endorsed for 1 ت Physical Education and Health and valid from January 9, 1995 to March 22 6, 2000. 23 2. On or about June 18, 1996, Thomas Glenn Griffith plead guilty to two counts of Sex Abuse III, five counts of Harassment for inappropriate 24 25 touching and one count of Official Misconduct II for touching students. 26 3. Griffith forfeited his teaching license to TSPC on June 28, 1996 27 pursuant to his plea agreement in Marion County Circuit Court. Under 28 ORS 342. 175, TSPC is required to revoke the teaching license of an educator for conviction for Sex Abuse III and may revoke for offenses of 29 30 Harassment and Official Misconduct. 31 ULTIMATE FINDINGS OF FACT 32 On or about June 18, 1996, Thomas Glenn Griffith plead guilty to two counts 33 of Sex Abuse III, five counts of Harassment and one count of Official Misconduct as a result of inappropriate touching of students in his physical 34 35 education classes in Marion County Circuit Court.

PAGE 1--DEFAULT ORDER--THOMAS GLENN GRIFFITH

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW Thomas Glenn Griffith's conviction for Sex Abuse III violates the Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance of Oregon Educators, OAR 584-20-040 and constitutes gross neglect of duty. Under ORS 342.175 the Commission is required to revoke a license for conviction of this crime. **OPINION** The victims in this case were elementary students in the Salem-Keizer School District. Griffith had contact with the students as the elementary physical education teacher. Griffith acknowledge that between September 1994 and May 1995 he touched four female students' breasts and one male student's penis. Any sexual contact with students constitutes gross neglect of duty under TSPC Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance. The court

also determined that Mr. Griffith's actions constituted Official Misconduct II. These findings above are grounds for revoking Mr. Griffith's Oregon Teaching

License even if the requirement of revocation under ORS 342.175 did not

18 ORDER

The Commission accepts the surrender and revokes the Oregon Standard Teaching License #281831 valid for physical education and health education issued from January 9, 1995 through March 6, 2000, for conviction of the crime of Sex Abuse III, Harassment and Official Misconduct II.

Dated this 37 day of Mytantes, 1996.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: David V. Myton, Executive Secretary

27 DVM/cs

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25 26 apply.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

2 3 4	I hereby certify that I served the foregoing order by mailing a true copy thereof certified by me as such by U.S. Certified Mail with Return Receipt Requested to Attorney for Thomas G. Griffith:
5	WALTER J TODD
6	835 LIBERTY STREET NE
7	SALEM OR 97301
8	Dated this 27th day of September 1996.
9	By: Darlene mick
10	Charlene A. Smith
11	Secretary to the Commission