

1 BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
2 OF THE STATE OF OREGON
3

4 In the Matter of the) DEFAULT ORDER OF
5 Educator License of) REVOCATION OF
6 BLAKE CAMERON WATKINS) OF RIGHT TO APPLY
7

8 On March 27, 2013, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission)
9 issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing to Blake Cameron Watkins (Watkins) in which the
10 Commission charged him with Gross Neglect of Duty. The Notice was sent via U.S. First Class
11 Mail and U.S. Certified Mail Receipt 7012 1010 0003 2804 2124 to the address on file with the
12 Commission. The Notice designated the Commission file as the record for purposes of proving a
13 prima facie case. The Notice of Opportunity of Hearing, dated March 27, 2013, and signed by
14 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director, stated:

15 “IF A REQUEST FOR HEARING IS NOT RECEIVED WITHIN THIS 21-DAY PERIOD,
16 YOUR RIGHT TO A HEARING SHALL BE CONSIDERED WAIVED UNLESS YOUR
17 FAILURE TO REQUEST A HEARING WAS BEYOND YOUR REASONABLE CONTROL.
18 IF YOU DO NOT REQUEST A HEARING OR IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT A
19 HEARING, THE COMMISSION WILL ADOPT AN ORDER OF DEFAULT WHICH MAY
20 INCLUDE THE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION OF YOUR LICENSE OR OTHER
21 DISCIPLINE.”
22

23 The certified mail was returned to the Commission “Unclaimed”, the first class mail was not
24 returned and assumed delivered. Watkins did not request a hearing. The Commission, therefore,
25 finds Watkins to be in default and enters the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and
26 final order, based on the files and records of the Commission concerning this matter.

27 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 28 1. Watkins was initially licensed by the Commission on May, 18, 2009. Watkins’ Initial
29 Teaching License, with endorsements in Biology (HS, ML); Chemistry (HS, ML); Multiple
30 Subjects (MIDLVL); ESOL (ML/HS, ECE/ELE); Physics (HS, ML); Integrated Science (HS,
31 ML); and Special Education (ML/HS, ECE/ELE), was issued May 18, 2009, and expired on
32 November 18, 2010. During all relevant times, Watkins was employed in the State of Texas.
33 The Commission retains jurisdiction over Watkins’ licensure status for a period of five years
34 after expiration.

- 36 2. On April 2, 2013, the Commission was notified by the National Association of State Directors
37 of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) clearing house that on February 8, 2013,
38 Watkins was disciplined by the Texas Education Agency. The information received by the
39 Commission reveals that Watkins’ Texas Teaching Credentials were revoked. The Texas

1 revocation was a result of Watkins' criminal conviction of "Unlawful Restraint", a Felony in
2 Texas and equivalent to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 163.235, Kidnapping in the First
3 Degree, also a Felony.

- 4 3. The Commission conducted an investigation and learned that on or about February 15, 2011,
5 Watkins started an altercation with his live-in girlfriend. Reports indicate Watkins threw
6 objects at her, struck her with a belt, strangled her and pointed a loaded shotgun at her. The
7 victim escaped Watkins by jumping out a second story window, fracturing a vertebra in her
8 back. Charged with multiple felonies, Watkins settled his criminal case by pleading guilty to
9 "Unlawful Restraint" on July 5, 2012.

10 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

11 Watkins's conduct as described above constitutes gross neglect of duty in violation of
12 ORS 342.175(1)(b); OAR 584-020-0040(4)(n) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0010(5) (*Use*
13 *professional judgment*); OAR 584-020-0040(1)(d) (*The Commission will deny, revoke or deny*
14 *the right to apply for a license or charter school registration to any applicant or educator who,*
15 *has been convicted of any of the crimes listed in ORS 342.143, or the substantial equivalent of*
16 *any of those crimes if convicted in another jurisdiction or convicted of attempt to commit such*
17 *crimes as defined in 161.405. Evaluation of substantially equivalent crimes or attempts to*
18 *commit crimes will be based on Oregon laws in effect at the time of the conviction, regardless*
19 *of the jurisdiction in which the conviction occurred: Kidnapping in the First Degree*); OAR
20 584-020-0040(4)(o) as it incorporates OAR 584-020-0035(3)(a) (*Maintain the dignity of the*
21 *profession by respecting and obeying the law, exemplifying personal integrity and honesty*).
22 This conduct also constitutes gross unfitness in violation of ORS 342.175(1)(c); OAR 584-020-
23 0040(5)(a) (*Revocation, suspension or denial of a license by another state for reasons and*
24 *through procedures that are the same as, or substantially equivalent to, those permitting*
25 *similar action in Oregon*); and OAR 584-020-0040(5)(e) (*Admission of or engaging in acts*
26 *constituting criminal conduct, even in the absence of a conviction*).

27 According to OAR 584-050-0006(3)(d), The Executive Director may deny issuance of a
28 license, certificate or registration, renewal of a license, certificate or registration; or
29 reinstatement of a license, certificate or registration under the conditions set forth in subsection
30 (3); Notice of denial and right to a hearing may be issued by the Executive Director when any of
31 the following conditions exist: (d) The Executive Director has evidence that the applicant may
32 lack fitness to serve as an educator. The conduct leading to your criminal conviction also fails to
33 establish fitness to hold a teaching license in Oregon as provided under ORS 342.143(2) (*good*

1 *moral character; mental and physical health as the Commission may required to establish*
2 *fitness).*

3
4 The Commission's authority to impose discipline in this matter is based upon ORS 342.175.

5
6 **FINAL ORDER**

7 The Commission hereby revokes Blake Cameron Watkins's right to apply for an Oregon
8 educator license.

9 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 20th day of February, 2014.

10 TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

11
12


13 By: _____
14 Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director

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16 **NOTICE OF APPEAL OR RIGHTS**

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18 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW MAY BE
19 OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE SERVICE OF
20 THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW IS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482 TO
21 THE OREGON COURT OF APPEALS.

. CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I served the foregoing notice of final order, certified by me as such, by mailing U.S. First Class Mail and U.S. Certified Mail—Return Receipt Requested, addressed to:

Blake Cameron Watkins
604 Tandy Lane
Pleasanton, TX 78064

Dated this 20th day of February, 2014.

By: 
Patty Liddell