

BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of the)
Teaching License of) SURRENDER OF TEACHING
RONALD BETCHTEL) LICENSE, STIPULATION AND
) ORDER
)

On June 22, 2000, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (Commission) issued a notice of opportunity for hearing to Ronald Betchtel in which the Commission proposed to suspend or revoke the teaching license of Mr. Betchtel or otherwise impose discipline under ORS 342.177, based on the alleged misconduct identified in the notice. On June 21, 2000, the Commission issued an amended notice of hearing. Mr. Betchtel requested a hearing. The Commission and Mr. Betchtel have now reviewed the matters alleged in the Notice and have agreed that their respective interests together with the public interest are best served by a surrender of Mr. Betchtel's Oregon teaching license and a stipulation to certain facts. In entering this stipulation, Mr. Betchtel waives his right to a hearing and understands that the Commission will accept the surrender of his teaching license and revoke the teaching license.

STIPULATED FACTS

Mr. Betchtel and the Commission stipulate as follows:

1. Mr. Betchtel holds a standard teacher license with endorsements in basic biology and standard hearing impaired. He was employed as a teacher at the Oregon School for the Deaf from September 1978 to March 22, 1999, when he resigned his position with the school.
2. Beginning on or about November 13, 1998, and continuing until about March 20, 1999, Mr. Betchtel developed a personal and sexual relationship with a female high school student at the School for the Deaf. The sexual contact included kissing, fondling of the breast and genital area and oral sexual contact. Most of the sexual contact occurred in Mr. Betchtel's car.
3. In March 1999, the student's parent reported this conduct to the School for the Deaf. When confronted by school officials, Mr. Betchtel admitted to his relationship with the student.
4. In August 1999, the Marion County District Attorney filed charges against Mr. Betchtel consisting of three counts of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree and one count of Official Misconduct in the First Degree. On September 17, 1999, Mr. Betchtel entered into a plea agreement in which he entered a plea of guilty to the charge of Official Misconduct in the First Degree. The other charges were dismissed. Betchtel was placed on probation for a period of 60 months and was fined \$560.

This stipulation is contingent on approval and adoption of the order by the Commission. If the Commission does not adopt this order, neither Mr. Betchtel nor the Commission are bound by these stipulations and Mr. Betchtel retains all rights to a hearing on the allegations.

IT IS SO STIPULATED:

Ronald W Betchtel
Ronald Betchtel

August 7, 2000
Date

David V Myton
David V. Myton, Executive Director
Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

8/8/00
Date

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Mr. Betchtel had sexual contact with a female student in violation of OAR 584-020-0040(4)(f).
2. Mr. Betchtel's conviction for the crime of official misconduct constitutes a violation of OAR 584-020-0040(5)(c).

Based on the foregoing, the Commission accepts the surrender of the teaching license of Ronald Betchtel and revokes Mr. Betchtel's Oregon Teaching License.

It is so ordered this 28th day of Sept 2000.

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: David V Myton
David V. Myton, Executive Director