

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificatecertificates of:

Case No. 2161722017

Renee A. Norris,

FINAL ORDER

Respondent

The Chief Certification Officer for the State of Idaho filed an Administrative Complaint against the educator certificates issued to Renee A. Norris, seeking for the Professional Standards Commission to impose discipline on Ms. Norris’s certificates. See Idaho Code § 33-1209. Because Ms. Norris did not request a hearing within 30 days, and because Ms. Norris was determined to be in default by a hearing/presiding officer, the allegations in the Administrative Complaint are treated as admitted, Idaho Code § 33-1209(3), and are incorporated by reference as findings of fact.

Based on these findings, the Professional Standards Commission concludes that Ms. Norris willfully violated the following principles of the Code of Ethics adopted by the State Board of Education. Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(j).

Ms. Norris’s conduct or course of conduct willfully violated a principle of the code of ethics that was adopted by the Idaho State Board of Education. Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(j) (“Willful violation of any professional code or standard of ethics or conduct, adopted by the state board of education”). Specifically, Ms. Norris violated Code of Ethics Principle II (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.03) (“A professional educator maintains a professional relationship with all students, both inside and outside the physical and virtual classroom.”).

Under Idaho Code § 33-1208, the Professional Standards Commission orders that the following discipline (as marked) be imposed on Ms. Norris’s certificates:

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As requested in the Administrative Complaint

 X The discipline requested by the Chief Certification Officer in her Request for Relief in the Administrative Complaint.

Other discipline

 Ms. Norris's certificates are revoked.

 Ms. Norris's certificates are permanently revoked under Idaho Code § 33-1208(2).

 Ms. Norris's certificates are suspended for years months

 Ms. Norris's certificates are suspended indefinitely pending completion of the following conditions:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

 Ms. Norris's certificates have the following conditions placed upon them.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

 A letter of reprimand will be placed in Ms. Norris's permanent certification file.

This Order is effective on the day it is signed. This Order and the Administrative Complaint, which will be attached to this Order, are public records, and may be made available on the State Department of Education or the Commission's website.

Dated this 2 day of February, 2021.



Elisa Saffle, Member
Idaho Professional Standards Commission

RECONSIDERATION AND JUDICIAL REVIEW

This is a final order of the Professional Standards Commission. Any party may file a motion for reconsideration of this order within 14 days of the service date of this order. The agency will dispose of the petition for reconsideration within 21 days of its receipt; if not, the petition will be denied as a matter of law. See Idaho Code § 67-5246. Petitions for reconsideration may be filed by mail addressed to the Professional Standards Commission, State Department of Education, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0027, or hand delivered to the Commission at 650 West State Street, Second Floor, Boise, ID 83720.

Any party aggrieved by this final order or orders previously issued in this case may seek judicial review of the orders in this case in district court. A party may do this by filing a petition for judicial review in the district court as provided in Idaho Code §§ 67-5270 and 67-5272. The petition must be filed within 28 days of the service date of this final order; or, if a motion for reconsideration is filed, within 28 days of the service of a decision on the motion for reconsideration or denial of the motion as a matter of law. Idaho Code § 67-5273. The filing of a petition for judicial review does not itself stay the effectiveness or enforcement of the agency action. Idaho Code § 67-5274.

CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this _____th day of February, 2021, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

Renee A. Norris



- U.S. Mail
Hand Delivery
- Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
Overnight Mail
Email:

Robert A. Berry
Deputy Attorney General
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0010

- U.S. Mail
Hand Delivery
Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
Facsimile:
- Email: robert.berry@ag.idaho.gov
leslie.gottsch@ag.idaho.gov

Annette Schwab
Program Specialist

Idaho State Department of Education

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificates of:

Renee A. Norris,

Respondent

Case No. 22017

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Lisa Colón Durham, Chief Certification Officer for the State of Idaho, alleges the following against Renee A. Norris (“Respondent”).

GENERAL AVERMENTS

1. The Professional Standards Commission (Commission) regulates teacher certification in Idaho.

2. The Chief Certification Officer is empowered to file an administrative complaint against the certificate of a teacher or other individual certified under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education. Idaho Code § 33-1209.

3. Ms. Norris holds the following certificates and endorsements issued under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education:

- a. Standard Elementary Certificate with an All Subjects (K-8) endorsement, effective September 1, 2015, through August 31, 2020;
- b. Standard Exceptional Child Certificate with an Exceptional Child Generalist (K-12) endorsement, effective September 1, 2015, through August 31, 2020.

4. Ms. Norris was employed by the Caldwell School District (“District”) for the 2019-2020 school year as a teacher at Lincoln Elementary school.

5. On February 11, 2020, Respondent self-reported to the school administrator that she had struck a student one time on his bare buttocks while she was attempting to change his diaper.

6. Respondent admitted the action was impulsive.
7. The force applied to the student left a hand print.

Count I

8. Ms. Norris's conduct or course of conduct willfully violated a principle of the code of ethics that was adopted by the Idaho State Board of Education. Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(j) ("Willful violation of any professional code or standard of ethics or conduct, adopted by the state board of education"). Specifically, Ms. Norris violated Code of Ethics Principle II. (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.03) ("A professional educator maintains a professional relationship with all students, both inside and outside the physical and virtual classroom.").

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

The Chief Certification Officer requests that the Commission grant the following relief, as permitted under Idaho Code §§ 33-1208 and 33-1209:

1. Issue a letter of reprimand.
2. That if Ms. Norris requests a hearing, a hearing be conducted before a hearing panel, where the Chief Certification Officer and Ms. Norris may present evidence concerning the allegations in the Administrative Complaint, to aid the hearing panel in determining whether Ms. Norris's certificate should be disciplined and, if so, what discipline should be imposed.
3. That after a hearing, the waiver of a hearing, or Ms. Norris's failure to file an Answer to the Administrative Complaint, the hearing panel issue findings of fact and conclusions of law finding the violations of law alleged herein.
4. Any other relief that would be just under the circumstances.

DATED the 8 day of July, 2020.


LISA COLÓN DURHAM
Chief Certification Officer

*Attorney for the
Chief Certification Officer*
Robert A. Berry
Deputy Attorney General
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0010
(208) 334-2400
robert.berry@ag.idaho.gov

NOTIFICATION OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

The Professional Standards Commission wishes to notify you of the following rights.

An administrative action has been initiated against your certificate(s). Under Idaho Code § 33-1209, if you wish to contest the allegations set forth in the administrative complaint, you must request a hearing. The request must be (1) made not more than 30 days after the date of service (mailing) of the administrative complaint, (2) in writing, and (3) addressed to the state superintendent of public instruction. **If you do not request a hearing or do not comply with the requirements for requesting a hearing, the allegations in the administrative complaint will be treated as admitted under Idaho Code § 33-1209(3).**

In response to the administrative complaint, you must file an answer pursuant to IDAPA rule 04.11.01.270, but you must file the answer at least 30 days prior to the day of the hearing.

You have the right to be represented by legal counsel, at your own expense, during the administrative proceeding. In addition, you are entitled to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, documents, and other things relevant to the proceedings.

The administrative proceeding is governed by provisions of the Idaho Code, including the Idaho Administrative Procedure Act, and by provisions of the Idaho Administrative Code, including the Idaho Rules of Administrative Procedure of the Attorney General that have been adopted by the Board of Education. You may access these laws and rules online or via the Idaho State Law Library.

To request a hearing, you must deliver your request to the following address or fax number:

Sherri Ybarra
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Re: Professional Standards Commission Hearing
650 West State Street, Room 200
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
Telephone: (208) 332-6800
Facsimile: (208) 334-2228

The State Department of Education receives mailed or hand-delivered documents between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (mountain time) except Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. The State Department of Education permits the filing of facsimile copies of documents that do not exceed ten pages, provided that the facsimile transmission is legible and is received before 5:00 p.m. on its due date. It shall be the responsibility of the filing party to verify with the staff of the State Department of Education that any facsimile transmission is successfully received and legible in its entirety.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 17th day of July, 2020, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

Renee Norris, Respondent

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- U.S. Mail
- Hand Delivery
- Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
- Overnight Mail
- Facsimile: (208) 344-1606
- Email:

Attorney for the
Chief Certification Officer
Robert A. Berry
Deputy Attorney General
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0010

- U.S. Mail
- Hand Delivery
- Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
- Overnight Mail
- Facsimile: (208) 854-8073
- Email: robert.berry@ag.idaho.gov
leslie.gottsch@ag.idaho.gov

Annette Schwab
Annette Schwab
Program Specialist
Idaho State Department of Education