

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

Zachary Denison,

Respondent

Case No. 22204

FINAL ORDER

The Chief Certification Officer for the State of Idaho filed an Administrative Complaint against the educator certificate issued to Zachary Denison, seeking for the Professional Standards Commission to impose discipline on Mr. Denison’s certificate. *See* Idaho Code § 33-1209. Because Mr. Denison did not request a hearing within 30 days, and because Mr. Denison 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 makes the following findings and conclusions:

Mr. Denison’s conduct or course of conduct violated Idaho Code § 33-1208(2), which applies where there is a violation of equivalent state laws in another jurisdiction. (“The professional standards commission shall permanently revoke any certificate issued or authorized under the provisions of section 33-1201, Idaho Code, and shall deny the application for issuance of a certificate of a person who pleads guilty to or is found guilty of, notwithstanding the form of the judgment or withheld judgment, any of the following felony offenses against a child: Rape, section 18-6101, Idaho Code.”).

Mr. Denison’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, Mr. Denison 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.”).

Mr. Denison’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, Mr. Denison violated Code of Ethics Principle III (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.11) (“Any conduct that seriously impairs the Certificate holder’s ability to teach or perform his professional duties.”).

Mr. Denison’s conduct or course of conduct violated Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(e) (“Revocation, suspension, denial or surrender of a certificate in another state for any reason constituting grounds for revocation in this state”).

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

As requested in the Administrative Complaint

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

Other discipline

_____ Mr. Denison’s certificates are revoked.

 X Mr. Denison’s certificates are permanently revoked under Idaho Code § 33-1208(2).

_____ Mr. Denison’s certificates are suspended for _____ years _____ months

_____ Mr. Denison’s certificates are suspended indefinitely pending completion of the following conditions:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

_____ Mr. Denison's certificates have the following conditions placed upon it.

1. _____

2. _____

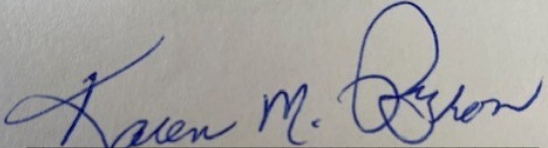
3. _____

4. _____

_____ A letter of reprimand will be placed in Mr. Denison'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 3 day of February, 2023.



KAREN PYRON, 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 16th day of February, 2023, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:


Zachary Denison

██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████
██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████

- 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 certificate of:

Zachery Denison,

Respondent

Case No. 22204

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Bethani Studebaker, Chief Certification Officer for the State of Idaho, alleges the following against Zachary Denison.

GENERAL AVERMENTS

The following general averments are adopted in each count below.

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. Mr. Denison holds the following certificate and endorsements issued under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education:
 - a. Standard Instructional certificate with Social Studies (6-12) and History (6-12) endorsements, effective February 9, 2018, through August 31, 2023.
4. Mr. Denison was a teacher and basketball coach at Mt. Nebo Junior High School in Payson, Utah.
5. Beginning in February of 2019, Mr. Denison had sexual intercourse with a 14-year old female student who attended the same school.
6. The sexual intercourse occurred approximately twelve times, with the last incident occurring in August 2020.

7. The two also exchanged nude photographs of one another via Instagram.

8. On December 4, 2020, Mr. Denison was charged and arrested for four (4) counts of Rape, a first-degree felony, and pled guilty to the four counts on March 4, 2021.

9. Mr. Denison's educator license was permanently revoked in Utah per Utah Code Section 53E-6-604(5)(b)(i), which makes revocation mandatory where an educator is convicted of a felony of a sexual nature.

COUNT I

10. Mr. Denison's conduct or course of conduct in violating violated Idaho Code § 33-1208(2), which applies where there is a violation of equivalent state laws in another jurisdiction. ("The professional standards commission shall permanently revoke any certificate issued or authorized under the provisions of section 33-1201, Idaho Code, and shall deny the application for issuance of a certificate of a person who pleads guilty to or is found guilty of, notwithstanding the form of the judgment or withheld judgment, any of the following felony offenses against a child: Rape, section 18-6101, Idaho Code.").

COUNT II

11. Mr. Denison'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, Mr. Denison 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.").

COUNT III

12. Mr. Denison'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, Mr. Denison violated Code of Ethics Principle III (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.11) ("Any conduct that seriously impairs the Certificate holder's ability to teach or perform his professional duties.").

COUNT IV

13. Mr. Denison's conduct or course of conduct violated Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(e) ("Revocation, suspension, denial or surrender of a certificate in another state for any reason constituting grounds for revocation in this state").

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.

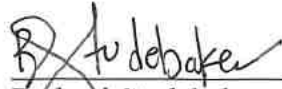
1. Permanently revoke Mr. Denison's certificate.
2. That if Mr. Denison requests a hearing, a hearing be conducted before a hearing panel, where the Chief Certification Officer and Mr. Denison may present evidence concerning the allegations in this Administrative Complaint, to aid the hearing panel in determining whether Mr. Denison certificate should be disciplined and, if so, what discipline should be imposed.
3. Any other relief that would be just under the circumstances.

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DATED this ____ day of May, 2022.



Bethani Studebaker
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. This 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 this administrative complaint will be treated as admitted under Idaho Code § 33-1209(3).**

In response to this administrative complaint, you may file an answer to this administrative complaint, 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 this 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.

This 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 this 11 day of May, 2022, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

Zachary Denison

[REDACTED]

- U.S. Mail
- Hand Delivery
- Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
- Overnight Mail
- Facsimile:
- Email: pstark@idahoea.org

*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