



Before the Education Practices Commission of the State of Florida

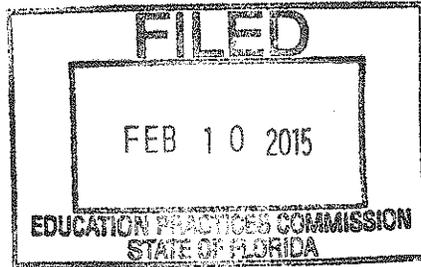
DR. ERIC J. SMITH as the
Commissioner of Education,

Petitioner,

vs.

TARA LAINE SALUTE,

Respondent.



EPC CASE N^o: 14-0414-RT

Index N^o: 14-522-FOI

PPS N^o: 123-1387

Final Order

Respondent, Tara Laine Salute, holds Florida educator's certificate no. 736363. Petitioner has filed an Administrative Complaint seeking suspension, revocation, permanent revocation or other disciplinary action against the certificate. A copy of the Administrative Complaint is attached to and made a part of this Order.

Service of the Administrative Complaint was made upon Respondent by certified mail. Respondent has failed to respond to the Administrative Complaint and has not requested a hearing or any other proceeding.

This cause came before a teacher panel of the Education Practices Commission on January 9, 2015, in Tallahassee, Florida. Respondent was neither present or represented.

The Commission finds that Respondent was properly served with the Administrative Complaint, has failed to respond timely, and has waived any right to be heard.

Since Respondent has not replied to the Administrative Complaint and has not contested the factual allegations, Petitioner offered the investigative file into evidence to prove the facts as alleged in the Administrative Complaint. The Commission finds these materials clearly and convincingly support the allegation and establish a prima facie case.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The allegations of fact in paragraphs 1 through 4 of the Administrative Complaint are adopted as findings of fact by the panel.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The conclusions of law alleged in Counts 1 through 4 of the Administrative Complaint are adopted as conclusions of law by the panel.
2. There is competent, substantial evidence to support the panel's conclusions.
3. The violations committed by Respondent warrant disciplinary action by the Education Practices Commission.

PENALTY

Upon consideration, it is ORDERED:

1. Respondent's Florida educator's certificate is hereby permanently revoked and Respondent is permanently barred from applying for another Florida educator's certificate.

This order shall become effective upon filing with the Clerk of the Commission.

DONE AND ORDERED, this 5th day of February, 2015.


PAMELA BONDURANT, Presiding Officer

COPIES FURNISHED TO:

Bureau of Professional Practices

Bureau of Teacher Certification

Florida Administrative Law Reports

Lee Ann Gustafson
Assistant Attorney General

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW

A PARTY WHO IS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THIS FINAL ORDER IS ENTITLED TO JUDICIAL REVIEW PURSUANT TO SECTION 120.68, FLORIDA STATUTES. REVIEW PROCEEDINGS ARE GOVERNED BY THE FLORIDA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE. SUCH PROCEEDINGS ARE COMMENCED BY FILING ONE COPY OF A NOTICE OF APPEAL WITH THE EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION AND A SECOND COPY, ACCOMPANIED BY FILING FEES PRESCRIBED BY LAW, WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST DISTRICT, OR WITH THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL IN THE APPELLATE DISTRICT WHERE THE PARTY RESIDES. THE NOTICE OF APPEAL MUST BE FILED WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS OF RENDITION OF THIS ORDER.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing Order was mailed to Tara Laine Salute, [REDACTED] Crystal River, Florida 34428 by Certified U.S. Mail and by electronic mail to Bonnie Wilmot, Assistant General Counsel, Suite 1232, Turlington Building, 325 West Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0400 this 10th day of **February**, 2015.



Gretchen Kelley Brantley, Clerk
Education Practices Commission

STATE OF FLORIDA
EDUCATION PRACTICES COMMISSION

PAM STEWART, as
Commissioner of Education,

Petitioner,

vs.

CASE NO. 123-1387

TARA LAINE SALUTE,

Respondent.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Petitioner, Pam Stewart, as Commissioner of Education, files this Administrative Complaint against TARA LAINE SALUTE. The Petitioner seeks the appropriate disciplinary sanction of the Respondent's educator's certificate pursuant to Sections 1012.315, 1012.795, and 1012.796, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to Rule 6A-10.081, Florida Administrative Code, Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession in Florida, said sanctions specifically set forth in Sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes.

The Petitioner alleges:

JURISDICTION

1. The Respondent holds Florida Educator's Certificate 736363, covering the areas of Educational Leadership, Elementary Education, Mentally Handicapped, Reading and School Principal, which is valid through June 30, 2016.

MATERIAL ALLEGATIONS

2. On one occasion between August and September of 2012, Respondent had sexual intercourse with [REDACTED] a 16-year-old, male student of the Citrus County School District. Respondent was aware that [REDACTED] was a student at the time they had sexual intercourse.

3. On one occasion between August and September of 2012, Respondent also allowed [REDACTED] and other minor students to drink alcohol in Respondent's home.

4. As a result of Respondent's conduct alleged in paragraph 2 of this Administrative Complaint, on or about September 28, 2012, in Citrus County, Florida, Respondent was arrested and charged with Unlawful Sexual Activity With a Minor. On or about September 9, 2013, in the

Circuit Court of the Fifth Judicial Circuit, in and for Citrus County, Florida, Respondent pled no contest to the lesser charge of Child Abuse without Great Bodily Harm and the Court withheld adjudication.

The Petitioner charges:

STATUTE VIOLATIONS

COUNT 1: The Respondent is in violation of Section 1012.795(1)(j), Florida Statutes, in that Respondent has violated the Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession prescribed by State Board of Education rules.

COUNT 2: The Respondent is in violation of Section 1012.795(1)(k), Florida Statutes, in that Respondent has otherwise violated the provisions of law, the penalty for which is the revocation of the teaching certificate.

RULE VIOLATIONS

COUNT 3: The allegations of misconduct set forth herein are in violation of Rule 6A-10.081(3)(a), Florida Administrative Code, in that Respondent has failed to make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions harmful to learning and/or to the student's mental health and/or physical health and/or safety.

COUNT 4: The allegations of misconduct set forth herein are in violation of Rule 6A-10.081(3)(h), Florida Administrative Code, in that Respondent has exploited a relationship with a student for personal gain or advantage.

(SIGNATURE ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

WHEREFORE, based on the reasons set forth herein and in accordance with the Explanation of Rights and Election of Rights forms attached to and made a part of this Administrative Complaint, Petitioner respectfully recommends that the Education Practices Commission impose an appropriate sanction against the Respondent's educator's certificate pursuant to the authority provided in Sections 1012.795(1) and 1012.796(7), Florida Statutes. The sanctions imposed by the Education Practices Commission may include, but are not limited to, any one or a combination of the following: issuing the Respondent a written reprimand; placing the Respondent on probation for any period of time; restricting the Respondent's authorized scope of practice; assessing the Respondent an administrative fine; directing the Respondent to enroll in the Recovery Network Program; suspending the Respondent's educator's certificate for a period of time not to exceed five years; revoking the Respondent's educator's certificate for a period of time up to 10 years or permanently; determining the Respondent to be ineligible for certification; or barring the Respondent from reapplying for an educator's certificate for a period of time up to 10 years or permanently.

EXECUTED on this 19th day of August, 2014.



PAM STEWART, as
Commissioner of Education
State of Florida