

**Joseph Ellison  
Voluntary Surrender**

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**The Background:**

*Prior History:* N/A

*Facts:* On July 20, 2021, Mr. Ellison was arrested on twenty-two (22) counts of misdemeanor assault with sexual intentions in Santa Cruz County, Arizona. On June 9, 2022, the Arizona State Board of Education accepted the voluntary surrender of Mr. Ellison's Arizona teaching certificate. Mr. Ellison returned a signed and executed Consent Order, surrendering his Tennessee educator license, dated August 18, 2022.

*Applicable Law  
/Rule:*

T.C.A. § 49-1-302(a)(5)(A)(iv) provides that the Board has the power to adopt rules and policies governing the discipline of licensed personnel for misconduct by formal reprimand or by the suspension and revocation of licenses and certificates.

T.C.A. § 49-5-1003(b)(1) provides that educators shall abide by all applicable federal and state laws.

T.C.A. § 49-5-1004(c)(2) provides that educators shall conduct themselves in a manner that preserves the dignity and integrity of the education profession.

0520-02-03-.09(1)(k) defines "other good cause" as conduct that calls into question the fitness of an educator to hold a license including, but not limited to, violation of any provision in the Teacher Code of Ethics as contained in T.C.A. §§ 49- 5-1001, et seq.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(h) provides that the State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, or formally reprimand an educator's license for a denial, formal reprimand, suspension, or revocation of a license or certificate in another jurisdiction for reasons which would justify denial, formal reprimand, suspension, or revocation under this rule.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(i) provides that the State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, or formally reprimand an educator's license for other good cause as defined in subparagraph (1)(k) of this rule.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(j) provides that the State Board of Education may revoke, suspend, or formally reprimand an educator's license for any offense contained in paragraphs (4) and/or (5) of this rule.

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(8) provides that an individual holding an educator's license who is found to have violated the teacher code of ethics contained in T.C.A. Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 10 shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of a formal reprimand up to and including revocation.

*Status:* Respondent was notified by, both, USPS certified mail and electronic mail of the Board's intent to revoke his educator license based upon these findings. Respondent received said notice.

**Board Action Consistency Considerations:**

N/A

**The Recommendation:**

The Board staff recommends that the Board approve the signed Consent Order submitted by Respondent based upon the facts and applicable rule noted above.