
Timothy Coates
Suspension, 1 Year Concurrent with Criminal Probation and with Proof of Counseling

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: Mr. Coates was arrested for an alleged domestic assault against his minor son. Mr. Coates pleaded no contest and was found guilty. Mr. Coates was placed on probation and required to complete a domestic violence course.

Applicable Law

/Rule: 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(1)(p) defines Suspension as, "With regard to licensure action by the State Board, suspension means the nullification of an educator's license for a predetermined term, after which the license may be reinstated. Reinstatement shall be subject to the completion of any terms and conditions contained in the order of suspension. With regard to employment action taken by a public or non-public school or school district, suspension means the temporary removal of an educator from his or her regular duties with or without pay. Suspension also includes the placement of an educator on administrative leave pending investigation into allegations of misconduct."

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

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(2)(i) provides, "Upon receiving notification that an individual has been convicted of a misdemeanor where the victim is a student and/or a minor, the individual shall be subject to a disciplinary action within the range of not less than six (6) months up to and including revocation of the convicted individual's educator license."

0520-02-03-.09(5)(a)(9)(i) provides, "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."

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."

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board's intent to **suspend** Respondent's educator license based upon these findings. Respondent received said notice and agreed to the suspension of Respondent's license.

Board Action Consistency Considerations:

October 2021 – Board approved the suspension of an educator's license concurrent with educator's criminal probation for theft.

February 2023 – Board approved the suspension of an educator's license concurrent with educator's criminal probation for falsifying academic records.

May 2023 – Board approved the suspension of an educator's license concurrent with educator's criminal probation for theft.

November 2024 - Board approved the suspension of an educator's license concurrent with educator's criminal probation for theft.

The Recommendation:

Board counsel recommends the Board approve the signed Consent Order submitted by the Respondent for the one (1) year suspension of Respondent's license, concurrent with Respondent's criminal probation, based upon the facts and applicable rule noted above.