

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION**

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
Petitioner,**

v.

**TODD G. MATTSON,
Respondent.**

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DOCKET NO. DI-06-17

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter is before the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (“Commission”) upon the Department of Education’s (“Department”) Motion for Summary Judgment, which seeks the revocation of Respondent’s teaching certificate. Initially, the Department filed a Notice of Charges against Respondent on November 6, 2006, alleging that the Respondent had been convicted of the crime of Criminal Solicitation (18 P.S. §902(a)) to Commit Murder of the First Degree (18 Pa.C.S. §2502(a)).

In its Motion for Summary Judgment, filed simultaneously with the Notice of Charges, the Department requests the Commission to revoke Respondent’s Instructional I teaching certificate endorsed in the area of Elementary K-6 and any and all other certificates issued to him by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pursuant to sections 5(a)(11.1) and 9.2 of the Professional Educator Discipline Act, 24 P.S. §§2070.5(a)(11.1) and 2070.9b. Section 9.2(2) of the Professional Educator Discipline Act requires the Commission to direct the Department to revoke the certificate of a

professional educator convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, a crime listed in section 111(e) (1) through (3) of the Public School Code of 1949 (24 P.S. §1-111(e)), or a crime from another jurisdiction that is equivalent to the crimes that fall under the two preceding categories whenever a certified copy of the verdict, judgment or sentence of court is filed with the Commission. 24 P.S. §2070.9b(2).

In support of its Motion, the Department attached certified copies of the pertinent court documents reflecting Respondent's conviction. Respondent, having been served by certified mail with the Notice of Charges and the Motion for Summary Judgment, failed to respond to either pleading. Accordingly, the facts alleged in the Notice of Charges are deemed admitted. 22 Pa. Code §233.115(c)(1); 1 Pa. Code §35.37.

In the instant case, there is no dispute that Respondent was convicted of Criminal Solicitation to Commit Murder of the First Degree. Thus, the only question before the Commission is whether this crime involves moral turpitude, is listed in section 111(e) (1) through (3) of the Public School Code of 1949, or is equivalent thereto. The determination of whether a crime involves moral turpitude is based solely upon the elements of the crime or misdemeanor. The facts underlying the charges are not relevant to the issue of moral turpitude. 22 Pa. Code §237.9(b); Startzel v. Commonwealth, Department of Education, 128 Pa. Commonwealth Ct. 110, 114, 652 A.2d 1005, 1007 (1989).

When dealing with an inchoate crime such as Criminal Solicitation, the Commission's focus is on the underlying crime. In the instant case, the underlying crime, Murder of the First Degree, is enumerated under section 111(e)(1) through (3) of the Public School Code of 1949. Thus, there is no genuine issue as to any material fact

as the Professional Educator Discipline Act mandates that the Commission must revoke the teaching certificates of any professional educator who is convicted of the crimes listed therein. See 24 P.S. §2070.9b(2); 24 P.S. §1-111(e).

Accordingly, there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and revocation of Respondent's teaching certificate will be ordered as a matter of law.

ORDER

AND NOW, this 31st day of January, 2007, upon consideration of the Motion for Summary Judgment filed by the Department of Education, it is hereby ORDERED that the professional teaching certificate issued to Respondent Todd G. Mattson shall be REVOKED by the Department pursuant to sections 5(a)(11.1) and 9.2 of the Professional Educator Discipline Act, *as amended*, 24 P.S. §§ 2070.5(a)(11.1) and 2070.9b.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
PRACTICES COMMISSION

BY:

Nancy Stankus
Acting Chairperson

ATTEST:

Carolyn Angelo
Executive Director

Date Mailed: