

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

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
Petitioner,**

v.

**HEATHER L. ZEO,
Respondent.**

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PSPC DOCKET NO. DI-09-38A

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter is before the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (“Commission”) upon the Department of Education’s (“Department”) November 3, 2010, Motion for Entry of Order, which seeks acknowledgment of the Respondent’s surrender of her professional educator certification¹ and requests dismissal of the instant disciplinary action.

On August 28, 2009, the Department filed a Notice of Charges seeking an immediate suspension of Respondent’s professional educator certification pursuant to section 2070.9b(1) of the Professional Educator Discipline Act. Under section 2070.9b(1), the Commission may direct the Department to suspend immediately the certificate of a professional educator indicted for a crime set forth in section 111(e)(1) through (3) of the Public School Code of 1949 if the Commission determines that the professional educator poses a threat to the health, safety or welfare of a student or other individual in a school.

By order dated November 3, 2009, the Commission ordered the immediate

suspension of Respondent's professional educator certification, finding that she had been criminally charged with Corruption of Minors (18 Pa.C.S. §6301(a)(1)), Obstructing Administration of Law or Other Governmental Function (18 Pa.C.S. §5101), Criminal Solicitation (18 Pa.C.S. §902) and Endangering the Welfare of Children (18 Pa.C.S. §4304) in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Upon Respondent's May 24, 2010, conviction of Corruption of Minors, the Department filed an Amended Notice of Charges, seeking the revocation of her professional educator certification pursuant to sections 5(a)(11.1) and 9b of the Professional Educator Discipline Act, 24 P.S. §§2070.5(a)(11.1) and 2070.9b. Section 9b(2) of the Professional Educator Discipline Act requires the Commission to direct the Department to revoke the certification 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).

Subsequent to her response to the Amended Notice of Charges, Respondent agreed to relinquish her Pennsylvania professional educator certification. In consideration of the Department's Motion for Entry of Order and the Respondent's Affidavit of Surrender, the Commission has decided to grant the Motion and, accordingly, enters the following:

1 Respondent holds an Instructional II certificate in the area of Mathematics 7-12.

ORDER

AND NOW, this __26th__ day of January, 2011, upon consideration of the Motion for Entry of Order filed by the Department of Education, it is hereby ORDERED that the Motion for Entry of Order is GRANTED and the professional educator certification of Respondent HEATHER L. ZEO is declared SURRENDERED IN LIEU OF DISCIPLINE.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: _____
Gilbert R. Griffiths
Chairperson

Attest: _____
Carolyn Angelo
Executive Director

Date Mailed: