COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,	:	
Petitioner,	:	
	:	
v.	:	**PSPC DOCKET NO. DI-17-101**
	:	
CHRISTINE M. TOWERS,	:	
Respondent.		

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

Before the Professional Standards and Practices Commission ("Commission") is the Department of Education's ("Department") Motion for Entry of Order filed in the above-captioned matter on June 21, 2017.

Respondent was issued an Instructional I Pennsylvania teaching certificate in the area of Social Studies 7-12. At all relevant times, Respondent was employed by the Tredyffrin-Easttown School District as a teacher's aide and coach. On or about April 25, 2016, an educator misconduct complaint was filed with the Department alleging that Respondent engaged in a sexual relationship with a 16-year-old male student who she was tutoring one-on-one. It was further alleged that Respondent had unprotected sex with the student four (4) times and urged him not to tell the police about their relationship. As a result, on or about March 6, 2017, Respondent was criminally convicted of Institutional Sexual Assault and Corruption of Minors and subsequently agreed to permanently[1] surrender her educator certification and her employment eligibility. Pursuant to the Act, surrender of a certificate and/or employment eligibility constitutes discipline. 24 P.S. § 2070.1b. The Department has filed the instant Motion requesting that the Commission enter an order accepting

1. Section 16(b)(2) of the Educator Discipline Act ("Act") provides that the Commission shall not reinstate a certificate or employment eligibility surrendered for conduct relating to sexual abuse or exploitation as that term is defined in the Act and 23 P.S. § 6303(a). 24 P.S. § 2070.16(b)(2). In her Affidavit of Surrender, Respondent acknowledged that section 16(b)(2) permanently bars her reinstatement as an educator.

Respondent's Affidavit of Surrender in resolution of the disciplinary matter.

Accordingly, we enter the following:

ORDER

AND NOW, this 10th day of August, 2017, 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 educator certification and employment eligibility to serve as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or a contracted educational provider staff member of CHRISTINE M. TOWERS is SURRENDERED in accordance with the foregoing Memorandum and Respondent's Affidavit of Surrender. Pursuant to 24 P.S. § 2070.16(b)(2) the Commission shall not reinstate Respondent's educator certification or employment eligibility. This Order is effective IMMEDIATELY.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND
PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: _____
Myron Yoder
Chairperson Pro Tempore

Attest: _____
Shane F. Crosby
Executive Director

Date Mailed: August 10, 2017