

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

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,  
Petitioner,**

**v.**

**CHRISTINE E. CHOUINARD,  
Respondent.**

:  
:  
:  
:  
:  
:  
:

**PSPC DOCKET NO. DI-20-074**

**ORDER ACCEPTING SURRENDER**

This matter is before the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (“Commission”) on the Department of Education’s (“Department”) Motion for Entry of Order (“the Motion”). The Motion requests that the Commission accept the surrender of the certificate and employment eligibility of Christine E. Chouinard (“Respondent”) in resolution of an educator misconduct complaint filed against her. The Commission heard the Motion at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 14, 2020. After careful consideration, the Commission enters this Order accepting Respondent’s surrender.

**BACKGROUND**

Respondent currently holds an Instructional I Pennsylvania teaching certificate in the area of Elementary K-6. At all relevant times, Respondent was employed by the Downingtown Area School District as a substitute teacher. On November 26, 2019, an educator misconduct complaint was filed with the Department alleging that Respondent was criminally charged following her conduct of being intoxicated in the classroom. By Order dated February 28, 2020, the Commission directed the Department to immediately suspend Respondent’s certificate and employment eligibility pursuant to section 9b(a)(1) of the Educator Discipline Act (“Act”). 24 P.S. § 2070.9b(a)(1).

Thereafter, Respondent was convicted of Public Drunkenness and Disorderly Conduct in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

On July 31, 2020, Respondent signed an Affidavit agreeing to surrender her certificate and employment eligibility. (Motion for Entry of Order, Ex. 2). On August 26, 2020, the Department filed a Motion for Entry of Order requesting that the Commission accept Respondent's surrender in lieu of further disciplinary proceedings.

### SURRENDER

Pursuant to the Act, surrender shall mean the termination by consent of a certificate or employment eligibility. 24 P.S. § 2070.1b. Surrender of a certificate or employment eligibility constitutes discipline. Id. The Act authorizes the Commission to accept the surrender of Respondent's certificate and employment eligibility.

### ORDER

AND NOW, this 28th day of September 2020, upon consideration of the Motion for Entry of Order filed by the Department of Education, it is hereby Ordered:

1. The Motion is granted, and the Commission accepts the surrender of Respondent's Instructional I certificate and her eligibility to be employed as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member.
2. Respondent's Instructional I certificate and her eligibility to be employed as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member are, therefore, terminated effective on the date of this Order.
3. The acceptance by the Commission of the surrender of Respondent's certificate

and employment eligibility shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent.

4. Respondent is not eligible to be employed in a school entity in a position requiring certification or as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member, or eligible for any certificate until her certificate or employment eligibility is reinstated in accordance with the Act.
5. The educator misconduct complaint filed against Respondent is resolved.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND  
PRACTICES COMMISSION

By: 

---

Myron Yoder  
Chairperson Pro Tempore



Attest: 

---

Shane F. Crosby  
Executive Director

Date Mailed: September 28, 2020