

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

<b>DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,</b>	:	
<b>Petitioner,</b>	:	
	:	
<b>v.</b>	:	<b>PSPC DOCKET NO. DI-24-096</b>
	:	
<b>COURTNEY RANKIN,</b>	:	
<b>Respondent.</b>	:	

**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 requests that the Commission accept the surrender of the certificate and employment eligibility of Courtney Rankin (“Respondent”) in resolution of an educator misconduct complaint filed against her. The Motion was presented to the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 13, 2025. After careful consideration, the Commission enters this Order accepting Respondent’s surrender.

**Background**

Respondent currently holds an Instructional I certificate in the area of Art PK-12. On September 24, 2024, an educator misconduct complaint was filed with the Department alleging that Respondent was charged of Sexual Abuse by a Parent, Guardian, Custodian, or Person of Trust, W.Va. Code § 61-8D-5, in West Virginia after engaging in a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old student. As required by the Educator Discipline Act (“Act”), the Department provided written notice to Respondent of the legal sufficiency of the complaint and of its determination that there was probable cause to believe that grounds for discipline existed. *See* 24 P.S. § 2070.9(e). Thereafter, Respondent was convicted of Sexual Intercourse, Sexual Intrusion, or

Sexual Contact Against a Student by a School Employee, W.Va. Code § 61-8B-11b, on October 30, 2024.

On October 30, 2024, Respondent signed an Affidavit agreeing to surrender her certificate and employment eligibility. (Motion for Entry of Order, Ex. 1). On December 5, 2024, 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2025, upon consideration of the Department's Motion for Entry of Order, it is hereby Ordered:

1. The Motion is granted, and the Commission accepts the surrender of Respondent's certificates and eligibility to be employed as a charter or cyber charter school staff member or contracted educational provider staff member.
2. Respondent's certificate and 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 and employment eligibility are reinstated in accordance with the Act.
5. Pursuant to 24 P.S. § 2070.16(b), the Commission shall not reinstate Respondent's certificate and employment eligibility.
6. The educator misconduct complaint filed against Respondent is resolved.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND  
PRACTICES COMMISSION

By:



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Myron Yoder  
Chairperson Pro Tempore

Attest:



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Amber Lee Czerniakowski  
Executive Director

Date Mailed: January 22, 2025