

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATE OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
EUPOXIA HRYSOULLASKIS : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 486-09/98-177

At its meeting of September 24, 1998, the State Board of Examiners reviewed information received from Union County Prosecutor's Office indicating that Eupoxia Hrysoullaskis had been charged with a crime. Hrysoullaskis had entered into a Pre Trial Intervention (PTI) program, under which she gave up teaching and surrendered her teaching certificate. Hrysoullaskis is currently the holder of a County Substitute certificate. Upon review of the above information, at that September meeting, the State Board of Examiners voted to issue an Order to Show Cause to Respondent.

The Order to Show Cause was mailed to Respondent by regular and certified mail on November 2, 1998. The Order provided that if Respondent desired to file an Answer to the Order such Answer must be filed within 20 days. Hrysoullaskis did not file a response to the Order to Show Cause. On January 28, 1999, by regular and certified mail, Hrysoullaskis was given another opportunity to respond to the Order. The regular mail was not returned and the certified mail was returned unclaimed.

The threshold issue before the State Board of Examiners in this matter, therefore, is to determine whether Hrysoullaskis' surrender of her teaching certificate as a predicate for her entry into the PTI program provides just cause for the suspension or revocation of her certificate. At its meeting of April 15, 1999, the State Board of Examiners reviewed the charges in the Order to Show Cause. Since Hrysoullaskis did not respond to the Order to Show Cause, the State Board of Examiners had no responsive pleading to consider in the hearing process. It is

therefore ORDERED that the charges in the Order to Show Cause are deemed admitted for the purpose of this proceeding. N.J.A.C. 6:11-3.6(a)1.

The State Board of Examiners must now determine whether Hrysoullaskis' surrender of her certificate, as a prerequisite for entry into PTI, provides just cause to act against her certificate pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:11-3.6(a)1. We find that it does.

The State Board of Examiners may revoke or suspend the certification of any certificate holder on the basis of demonstrated inefficiency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming a teacher or other just cause. N.J.A.C. 6:11-3.4. "Teachers... are professional employees to whom the people have entrusted the care and custody of ... school children." Tenure of Sammons, 1972 S.L.D. 302, 321. In the judgment of the Union County Prosecutor, who demanded that Hrysoullaskis surrender her teaching certificate as a condition for entering PTI, Hrysoullaskis, has, by her conduct, violated that most sacred trust. The prosecutor had knowledge of the facts underlying the indictment; he deemed it imperative that Hrysoullaskis no longer be given access to children as a teacher. The New Jersey State Board of Examiners can do no less.

Accordingly, it is therefore ORDERED that Eupoxia Hrysoullaskis' County Substitute certificate be revoked on this 15th day of April, 1999.

Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing: May 4, 1999

Appeals may be made to the State Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-28.

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