

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
ROBERT H. BOLMER : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 547-02/00-229

At its meeting of February 24, 2000, the State Board of Examiners reviewed information from the Division of Criminal Justice indicating that on July 15, 1980, Robert H. Bolmer had pled guilty to charges of sodomy of a juvenile in Hunterdon County. On December 15, 1980, Bolmer pled guilty to sodomy of a juvenile and one count of debauching and impairing the morals of a minor in Warren County. Bolmer was sentenced to serve an indeterminate period not to exceed 30 years at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center at Avenel for the sodomy charges. He was sentenced to a concurrent sentence of 3 years at Avenel for the crime of debauching and impairing the morals of a minor. In addition, on October 24, 1996, the Union County Prosecutor indicted Bolmer on a weapons charge contrary to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-7(b), "Certain Persons Not to Have Weapons." Bolmer pled guilty and was sentenced to four years' incarceration and fined \$125. Bolmer is currently the holder of Teacher of English and Teacher of German certificates. Upon review of the above information, at that February meeting, the State Board of Examiners voted to issue Bolmer an Order to Show Cause.

The Board sent Bolmer the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on April 3, 2000. The Order provided that an Answer to the Order must be filed within 20 days. Although Bolmer signed and returned the certified mail receipt, he did not respond to the Order to Show Cause. On June 26, 2000, the Board of Examiners provided Bolmer an additional ten days in which to respond to the Order. He was advised that if no response was received, the allegations in the Order to Show Cause would be deemed admitted and the State Board of Examiners would proceed to a decision as to revocation or suspension on the basis of the evidence before it. Once again, Bolmer did not respond.

The threshold issue before the State Board of Examiners in this matter, therefore, is whether Bolmer's convictions constitute conduct unbecoming a certificate holder. Since Bolmer failed to 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 Bolmer's convictions, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, represent just cause to act against his certificates pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:11-3.6(a)1. We find that they do.

The Commissioner has long-recognized that teachers in the State of New Jersey "are professional employees to whom the people have entrusted the care and custody of ... school children....This heavy duty requires a degree of self-restraint and controlled behavior rarely requisite to other types of employment." Tenure of Sammons, 1972 S.L.D. 302, 321.

In this case, Bolmer has several convictions for crimes that directly imperiled a child. Moreover, he has a later conviction for a weapons offense, which only further proves his unsuitability to teach. Unfitness to hold a position in a school system may be shown by one incident, if sufficiently flagrant. Redcay v. State Board of Education, 130 N.J.L. 369, 371 (S. Ct. 1943), aff'd. 131 N.J.L. 326 (E & A 1944). The heinous nature of Bolmer's crimes yields only one conclusion in this matter: that Bolmer should never teach in any New Jersey classroom again. Accordingly, the State Board of Examiners believes that the only appropriate sanction in this case is the revocation of Bolmer's certificates.

Accordingly, it is therefore ORDERED that Robert Bolmer's Teacher of English, and Teacher of German certificates be revoked on this 21st day of September, 2000. It is further ORDERED that Robert Bolmer return his certificates to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Licensing, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this decision.

Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing: November 9, 2000

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

IBG:MZ:eah:bolmer; robert

