

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATE OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
GREGORY P. DAGLIS : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 579-09/00-254

At its meeting of September 21, 2000, the State Board of Examiners reviewed information received from the Office of Criminal History Review indicating that Gregory P. Daglis was convicted in 1993 on charges of possession of marijuana. As a result of such conviction, Daglis was disqualified from public service pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1 *et seq.* Daglis did not challenge the accuracy of his criminal history record before the Commissioner of Education. 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. Daglis currently holds a County Substitute certificate issued by the Cape May County Office of Education.

The Order to Show Cause was mailed to Daglis by regular and certified mail on October 31, 2000. The Order provided that an Answer must be filed within 20 days. Daglis did not respond to the Order. On February 6, 2001, Daglis was provided an additional 10 days to file a response to the Order to Show Cause. 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. The certified mail was signed and returned. The regular mail copy was not returned.

The threshold issue before the State Board of Examiners in this matter, therefore, is whether Daglis' disqualification from serving in the public schools of New Jersey gives the Board just cause to act against his certificate pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:11-3.6(a)1. Since Daglis 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. Since Daglis' disqualification, which was predicated on the same offense as was set forth in the Order to Show Cause, is admitted, the Board of Examiners must now decide whether that constitutes a sufficient basis to act against his certificate pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:11-3.6(a)1. We find that it does.

In enacting the Criminal History Review statute, N.J.S.A. 6-7.1 et seq. in 1986, the Legislature sought to protect public school pupils from contact with individuals whom it deemed to be a danger to them. In 1989 the Legislature specifically amended the statute to include all convictions concerning controlled dangerous substances as disqualifying offenses. See, N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1b. This amendment was a clear recognition on the part of the Legislature that individuals with such drug convictions should not be permitted to be in contact with school-aged children. The consistent and long standing policy of this State is to eliminate the use of illegal drugs. See, In the Matter of the Tenure Hearing of David Earl Humphreys, 1978 S.L.D. 689. To that end, the State and the schools herein have engaged in extensive educational efforts to warn the citizenry of the perils of illicit drugs. See, In the Matter of the Certificate of Barbara Corwick, OAL Dkt. No. EDE 3562-87, State Board of Examiners decision (March 24, 1988). Those who violate this deep-rooted policy, *whether by the use of drugs or their manufacture and distribution*, endanger the public welfare; they cannot be entrusted with the responsibility of caring for school aged pupils. Accordingly, the State Board of Examiners finds that Daglis' disqualification from service in the public schools of this State because of his conviction for possession of marijuana provides just cause to take action against his certificate.

That strong policy statement on the part of the Legislature set forth in N.J.S.A. 18A:6-7.1b also offers guidance to the State Board of Examiners as to the appropriate sanction in this matter. An individual whose offense is so great that he or she is barred from service in public schools should not be permitted to retain the license that authorizes such service. Nor should a person who has been disqualified from teaching in a public school be permitted to continue to hold himself out as a teacher. Because the Legislature considers Daglis' offense so significant, the State Board of Examiners in this matter believes that the appropriate sanction for his disqualification is the revocation of his certificate to teach.

Accordingly, it is therefore ORDERED that Gregory P. Daglis' certificate be revoked on this 5th day of April 2001. It is further ORDERED that Daglis return his certificate to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Licensing, CN 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this decision.

Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing: July 13, 2001

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

JFK:MZ:kb:Gregory Gaglis