

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE LICENSES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
BELINDA WILSON : ORDER OF REVOCATION
DOCKET NO. 440-04/97-83

At its meeting of April 3, 1997, the State Board of Examiners reviewed information received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education indicating that Belinda Wilson's Pennsylvania teaching certificates were revoked on October 16, 1996 based upon her September, 1994 conviction on two (2) counts of simple assault and two (2) counts of endangering the welfare of children.

At that meeting, the State Board of Examiners determined that such conviction were sufficient to warrant consideration of suspension or revocation of respondent's New Jersey Health and Physical Education and Principal/Supervisor licenses, and thus issued an Order to Show Cause against Belinda Wilson.

The Order was forwarded by regular and certified mail on April 23, 1997, and provided that if Belinda Wilson desired to file an Answer to said Order such answer must be filed within twenty (20) days. Twenty (20) days elapsed without an answer having been filed by or on behalf of Belinda Wilson. The regular mail was not returned but the certified mail was returned unclaimed.

It is therefore ORDERED that said charges are deemed admitted for the purpose of this proceeding. Respondent has been convicted of a crime of violence. A teacher's behavior outside the classroom may be relevant in determining that person's qualifications and continued fitness to hold a license to teach. In re Grossman, 127 N.J. Super. 13, 30 (App. Div. 1974). 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). In this case,

Ms. Wilson has two convictions for simple assault coupled with an additional two counts of endangering the welfare of a child.

“Teachers ... 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. Conviction of a crime of violence casts grave doubts upon the respondent’s character and, hence, her fitness to remain in the classroom. Parents have the right to be assured that their children will not be subjected to one who could not govern herself.

Accordingly, the State Board of Examiners finds respondent’s conviction conduct unbecoming a certificate holder. The appropriate penalty for her unbecoming conduct is the revocation of respondent’s New Jersey teaching licenses.

It is, therefore, ORDERED that said charges warrant revocation of Belinda Wilson’s New Jersey Health and Physical Education and her Principal/Supervisor licenses. Belinda Wilson’s licenses are hereby revoked on this 25th day of September, 1997.

It is further ORDERED that Belinda Wilson return her licenses to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Licensing, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within fourteen (14) days of receipt of this letter.

Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing: October 8, 1997

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

IBG:KHK:br:Wilsonrv