

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
THE CERTIFICATE OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
WILLIAM C. POSSELT : ORDER OF REVOCATION  
\_\_\_\_\_ : DOCKET NO: 1617-265

At its meeting of January 19, 2018, the State Board of Examiners (Board) reviewed information the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office (MCPO) and the Criminal History Review Unit (CHRU) had forwarded regarding William C. Posselt. Posselt was indicted for Burglary in the 2nd degree and Terroristic Threats in the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree after he attacked a real estate agent who was parked on his street waiting to meet with her clients. After blocking the realtor's vehicle with his car, obstructing her egress, Posselt tried to grab her through the driver's side window while screaming he was going to kill her. He also continually banged on her windshield as well as the hood of her car, putting her in fear of her life. After a bench trial on the charges, on October 20, 2015, Posselt was found not guilty by reason of insanity. Posselt is required to attend periodic *Krol* hearings to assess his mental state.

Posselt currently holds a Teacher of Physical Education certificate. Upon review of the above information, at its March 1, 2018 meeting, the Board voted to issue Posselt an Order to Show Cause as to why his certificate should not be revoked.

The Board sent Posselt the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on March 6, 2018. The Order provided that Posselt had 30 days to respond. The certified mail receipt was signed and returned and the regular mail copy was not returned. Posselt did not respond. On April 13, 2018, the Board sent Posselt another notice by certified and regular mail providing him an additional 15 days to respond to the Order to Show Cause. Both the certified and regular mail copies were returned as "Vacant, Unable to Forward." The Board could not secure a current address for Posselt and, accordingly, the Order was published in the New Jersey Star Ledger on June 28 and June 29, 2018. Posselt did not file a response to that notice.

Thereafter, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(e), on August 3 and 4, 2018, the Board published a hearing notice in the Star Ledger, providing Posselt with the opportunity to file a written submission on the issue of whether his conduct provided just cause for the Board to take action against his certificate and, if so, the appropriate sanction. In addition, he was offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. Once again, Posselt did not respond.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Posselt's conduct constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder or other just cause. Since Posselt failed to respond to the Order to Show Cause, the allegations therein are deemed admitted. *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(c). Consequently, at its meeting of January 24, 2019, the Board considered only the allegations in the Order to Show Cause and the information received from the MCPO and the CHRU. The Board concluded that no material facts related to Posselt's offense were in dispute since he never denied that he had engaged in the conduct alleged. Thus, the Board determined that summary decision was appropriate in this matter. *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(h). After reviewing the allegations, the Board found that Posselt had engaged in unbecoming conduct.

The Board must now determine whether Posselt's conduct, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, provides just cause to act against his certificate pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.4. The Board finds that it does.

The Board 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.* 6A:9B-4.4. "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. Moreover, unfitness to hold a position in a school system may be shown by one incident, if sufficiently flagrant. *Redcay v. State Bd. of Educ.*, 130 *N.J.L.* 369, 371 (1943), *aff'd*, 131 *N.J.L.* 326 (E & A 1944). Posselt's

actions in threatening to kill the victim, trying to grab her through her driver's side window and banging on her car are egregious and unacceptable for a role model. Although Posselt was found not guilty by reason of insanity, the court-ordered, continuing assessment of his mental state indicates that he is not fit to be around students.

Accordingly, on January 24, 2019, the Board voted to revoke William C. Posselt's Teacher of Physical Education certificate. On this 8th day of March 2019 the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that the revocation of Posselt's certificate be effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Posselt return his certificate to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Certification and Induction, P.O. Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within 30 days of the mailing date of this decision.

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Rani Singh, Acting Secretary  
State Board of Examiners

**Date of Mailing:**  
**Via certified and regular mail**

Appeals may be made to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-38.4.