

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
THE CERTIFICATE OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
ANISA M. JOHNSON : ORDER OF REVOCATION  
\_\_\_\_\_ : DOCKET NO: 1718-149

At its meeting of November 1, 2018, the Atlantic Vicinage of the New Jersey Superior Court and the Office of Student Protection (OSP), formerly the Criminal History Review Unit, provided information to the State Board of Examiners (Board) regarding Johnson. On February 28, 2018, Johnson was indicted on charges of Conspiracy (2<sup>nd</sup> degree), Computer Theft (3<sup>rd</sup> degree) and Theft by Deception (3<sup>rd</sup> degree). It was alleged that Johnson conspired with others to provide her personal information to gain access to multiple online gaming platforms without their knowledge or authorization with the purpose of defrauding the casino and the internet gaming platform out of an excess of \$5,000. On June 29, 2018, Johnson received an Order of Postponement and was entered into a Pre-Trial Intervention program for a period of 36 months. She was also ordered to perform 25 hours of community service, pay \$4,375 in restitution and pay fees and penalties.

Johnson currently holds a Teacher of Medical Assisting Certificate of Eligibility. Upon review of the above information, the Board voted at its meeting of December 17, 2018 to issue Johnson an Order to Show Cause as to why her certificate should not be revoked.

The Board sent Johnson the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on December 20, 2018. The Order provided that Johnson must file an Answer within 30 days. Johnson filed an Answer on January 2, 2019. Johnson indicated that her mother passed away unexpectedly leaving her in a financial bind. In light of this she answered an ad on craigslist.

She stated that she met a man who said he could create a casino account with some of her personal information and that he would be able to make some money. Johnson simply had to go to the casino, show ID, and pick up the winnings. She said 2 days after she did this, detectives were at her door and she returned \$2,000. She states that she was a victim along with 15 other people.

Since there were material facts in dispute, the Board transmitted the matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for hearing as a contested case. On May 10, 2019, the OAL returned the case to the Board after Johnson failed to appear for a scheduled hearing on May 6, 2019. Pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 1:1-3.3, the Administrative Law Judge assigned to the case had provided Johnson with 13 days to submit an explanation for his nonappearance. Johnson did not submit an explanation or otherwise respond to that notice. At its meeting of June 28, 2019, the Board voted not to retransmit the matter to OAL. On July 2, 2019, the Board sent Johnson a notice by regular and certified mail providing her with an additional 15 days to provide an explanation of why the Board should consider her previously submitted Answer considering her failure to appear. The Board also advised Johnson that if she did not respond, her Answer would be stricken from the record and the allegations in the Order to Show Cause would be deemed admitted.

Johnson submitted a letter indicating that she would like to return to teaching, but she was unable to make the hearing that was scheduled because her current employment prevents her from taking time off as she is on a probationary period. Board staff contacted Johnson by telephone to discuss the matter. Johnson advised that she would like a hearing before the Board. Johnson was advised that the material facts would be deemed admitted if the matter proceeded before the Board.

Accordingly, pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(e), on August 20, 2019, the Board sent Johnson a hearing notice by regular and certified mail informing her that there were no material facts in dispute and that her Answer was stricken from the record. Johnson was offered an opportunity to submit written arguments on the issue of whether the conduct addressed in the Order to Show Cause provided just cause for the Board to take action against her certificates. Johnson was also offered the opportunity to appear before the Board to provide testimony on the sanction issue. Johnson did not respond, but since she had previously advised Board staff that she wished to appear, the matter was scheduled for a hearing on December 13, 2019. On the day of the hearing, Johnson left a message on the Board's voicemail indicating she was ill and requested the matter be adjourned to a different date. The Board then scheduled the matter for a hearing on January 23, 2020. Johnson did not appear or otherwise notify the Board of the basis for her failure to appear on January 23, 2020.

The threshold issue before the Board in this matter is whether Johnson's conduct as outlined in the Order to Show Cause constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder or other just cause. Since Johnson did not appear at her hearing, and her Answer was subsequently stricken from the record, at its meeting of February 28, 2020, the Board considered only the allegations in the Order to Show Cause. Moreover, since Johnson is deemed to have failed to file an Answer, the allegations contained in the Order to Show Cause are deemed admitted. *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.6(c). Thus, since no material facts related to Johnson's offense were in dispute, 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 Johnson engaged in unbecoming conduct.

The Board must now determine whether Johnson's conduct, as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, represents just cause to act against her certificate pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9B-4.5. 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, the Commissioner has long held that teachers serve as role models for their students. Furthermore, 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). In this case, the record established that Johnson was charged with Conspiracy (2<sup>nd</sup> degree), Computer Theft (3<sup>rd</sup> degree), and Theft by Deception (3<sup>rd</sup> degree) as a result of her involvement in a casino and internet gaming platform. Johnson's conduct falls far short of that expected of a role model and the Board believes that the only appropriate response to her breach is the revocation of her certificates.

Accordingly, on February 28, 2020, the Board voted to revoke Anisa M. Johnson's Teacher of Medical Assisting Certificate of Eligibility. On this 14<sup>th</sup> day May 2020 the Board voted to adopt its formal written decision and it is therefore ORDERED that Johnson's certificates be revoked, effective immediately. It is further ORDERED that Johnson return her 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, 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.