

BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of
the Application of
Cameron Tarr

19-PPC-50

FINAL ORDER

NOW, on this 9th day of June 2020, the above-captioned matter comes for consideration by the Kansas State Board of Education (Board). Appearing for the Board are Chairman, Kathy Busch, and members, Jean Clifford, Michelle Dombrosky, Deena Horst, Ben Jones, Jim McNiece, Ann Mah, Jim Porter, and Janet Waugh.

WHEREUPON the Professional Practices Commission (Commission) considered the matter on May 15, 2020. Cameron Tarr did not appear. The Kansas State Department of Education appeared through its attorney, Scott Gordon. After reviewing the evidence, the Commission voted **8 - 0**, to recommend the Board deny the application of Cameron Tarr's emergency substitute license.


WHEREUPON the Board reviewed the Commission's Initial Order and after considering the presentation by Linda Sieck, Commission Chair, who was available to answer the Board's questions and being otherwise duly advised in the premises, the Board adopted the Commission's findings of fact and conclusions of law by a vote of **9 - 0**.

All findings set forth in the Commission's Initial Order attached hereto are incorporated by reference and made a part of this Final Order as though fully set forth at length herein.

IT IS THEREFORE CONCLUDED by the Kansas State Board of Education that Cameron Tarr's application for an emergency substitute license is denied.

This Final Order is made and entered this 9th day of May 2020.

Kansas State Board of Education


BY: Kathy Busch, Chairwoman
Signed June 18, 2020

NOTICE TO LICENSEE/APPLICANT

This is a Final Order and is effective upon service.

To request reconsideration of this order, you must file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Secretary to the State Board of Education, at the address below, within 15 days after service of this Final Order. The Petition must state the specific grounds upon which relief is requested.

To request a stay of effectiveness of this order, you must file a Petition for Stay with the Secretary to the State Board of Education at the address below. A petition can be filed until the time which a petition for judicial review would no longer be timely.

To seek judicial review of a Final Order, you must file a petition in the District Court as authorized by K.S.A. 77-601, *et seq.* within 30 days following the service of the Final Order. Filing a Petition for Reconsideration is not a prerequisite for seeking judicial review. A copy of any Petition for Judicial Review must be served upon the Secretary to the State Board of Education at the address below.

Peggy Hill
Secretary, Kansas State Board of Education
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson Ave. Suite 600N
Topeka, Kansas 66612


CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 18th day of June 2020, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Cameron Tarr
15938 S. Sunset St.
Olathe, KS 66062

And via interoffice mail to:

R. Scott Gordon
Kansas State Department of Education
900 SW Jackson Street, Ste. 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612



Peggy Hill, Secretary
Kansas State Board of Education

**BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION**

In the Matter of
the Application of
Cameron Tarr

19-PPC-50

REVISED INITIAL ORDER

The above-captioned case comes on for a second hearing before the Professional Practices Commissioner (Commission) of the Kansas State Board of Education (State Board) upon Cameron Tarr's (Applicant) application for an Emergency Substitute License and upon the Kansas State Department of Education's (KSDE) Motion for Rehearing previously granted by the State Board.

The first hearing on this matter was held on December 9, 2019. Appearing for the Commission were chairperson, Linda Sieck, and members, William Anderson, Aaron Edwards, Jennifer Holt, Sylvia Ramirez, Stan Ruff, and Caroline Spaulding. The KSDE appeared by and through General Counsel, R. Scott Gordon. The Applicant appeared on his own behalf. At the conclusion of that hearing, the PPC voted to recommend the Applicant's license be granted.

Following remand by the State Board, the Professional Practices Commission conducted a 2nd hearing on this matter. The second hearing was conducted on May 15, 2020. The Applicant received notice of the hearing but did not participate. KSDE appeared by and through General Counsel R. Scott Gordon.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Applicant applied for an emergency substitute teaching license.
2. On November 26, 2013, Mr. Tarr pleaded guilty and was convicted of Furnishing Alcohol to a minor and was placed on a 12-month probation.
3. Mr. Tarr did not disclose his conviction although it involved a minor. The minor in possession of the alcohol was under the age of 18.
4. According to Mr. Tarr's December 9th testimony, he had a group of friends over including the 17-year-old minor. Mr. Tarr bought some alcohol for the group. Mr. Tarr drove the minor back to her home, where her parents realized she was intoxicated and wanted to press charges against Mr. Tarr. Mr. further testified to the following:
 - a. He had "friends of all age ranges" over that at his parent's place,
 - b. He knew of one girl that had been drinking and that he "honestly didn't think much of it";
 - c. He further testified that charges were "only filed because she was under the age of 18 and they were upset that he had furnished her with alcohol";
 - d. He further testified that he purchased "some of the alcohol consumed that night";
 - e. He testified there "could have been. Honestly, more than likely" other people there drinking under the age of 21.
5. The Applicant stated during closing statement that "[the victim] was just a friend, there was never any intention of that [referring to the alleged sexual relationship] happening".
6. Subsequent to the December 9, 2019 hearing, KSDE came into possession of law enforcement records not previously known of by KSDE or the PPC. Those records include written interview summaries conducted by the Olathe Police Department as well as a video recording of an interview of the Applicant.

7. According to the Applicant's statement to law enforcement and contrary to the Applicant's previous testimony, He picked up the 17 year old child from her mother's home and drove her to his parents' house to watch a movie and drink. On the way there, they stopped at a liquor store to buy flavored vodka. The relationship between the two was generally of a romantic and sexual nature. Events of that evening were also of a romantic and sexual nature, even though by Applicant's own admission the 17-year old child was highly intoxicated. Applicant also disclosed to law enforcement that he had previously shared nude pictures of himself with the 17-year old child via text message.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Kansas State Board of Education (State Board) is responsible for the general supervision of Kansas education, including the certification and licensure of teachers. Kan. Const., Art. VI and K.S.A. 72-255.
2. One of the obvious goals of education is to "instill respect for the law." Hainline v. Bond, 250 Kan. 217 (1992). An educator is a role model. Hainline at 224.
3. Teaching and school administration are professions with all the similar rights, responsibilities and privileges accorded other legally recognized professions. K.S.A. 72-2308.
4. The evidence shows the Applicant not only engaged in misconduct sufficient to justify denial of his requested license by the State Board, but he was dishonest about it while testifying under oath.

THEREFORE the Professional Practices Commission recommends to the State Board, by a vote of 8-0, that Applicant's request for an emergency substitute license be denied for the following reasons:

1. Applicant's conviction of a crime involving a minor child,
2. Applicant's intentional falsification of certain material facts after having been legally sworn to testify truthfully before the Professional Practices Commission, and
3. Applicant's failure to participate in the proceedings.

This Amended Initial Order is made and entered this May 15th, 2020.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION



Linda Sieck, Chairman

Order signed on May 22, 2020.

NOTICE TO APPLICANT

This Order is not a Final Order and is required to be reviewed by the Kansas State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act. The State Board will review all issues. Notice of review with the specific date and time will be provided to the parties within 15 days of the review.

You may submit to the State Board for its consideration as part of its review of the Initial Order a written brief citing legal authority as to why the above recommendation should not be accepted. You must file the brief with the State Board Secretary at the address indicated below within ten calendar days after service of the Initial Order for transmittal to the State Board. You must also make any request for oral argument at that time.

Peggy Hill
Secretary, Kansas State Board of Education
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 600
Topeka, KS 66612

Response briefs are due within ten calendar days after service of the legal brief upon the opposing party. Any reply brief is due five calendar days after service of any response brief upon the opposing party. Any response or reply briefs must also be filed with the State Board Secretary at the address indicated above.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 22nd day of May, 2020, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was filed with the Secretary for the Kansas State Board of Education and one (1) copy was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Cameron Tarr

15938 S. Sunset St.
Olathe, KS 66062

And via interoffice mail to:

R. Scott Gordon
Kansas State Department of Education
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Candi Brown

Candi Brown
Secretary, Professional Practices Commission