

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA            )     DIVISION OF THE SECRETARY  
   ) :SS  
 COUNTY OF HUGHES                 )     SOUTH DAKOTA DEPT. OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the                 )  
 Revocation of the                    )  
 Certificate of                         )  
 Tonya Marie Druempel.             )  
   )  
   )  
   )

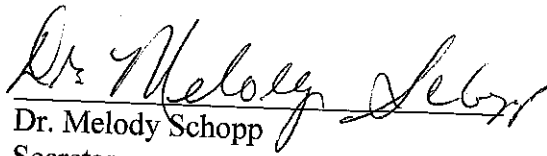
DSE 2015-19  
  
**ORDER REVOKING  
 SOUTH DAKOTA TEACHER  
 CERTIFICATE**

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Education by SDCL 13-43-28.1 and 13-42-9, following receipt of a Complaint for the Revocation (complaint dated November 14, 2015) of a certificate dated June 28, 2012, complaint filed by the South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission, and after review of the entire record herein, the Secretary orders the following:

1. The Secretary affirms and adopts the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Commission. These findings and conclusions, attached as Exhibit A, are hereby incorporated into this Order by this reference as if set forth in full.
2. There is clear and convincing evidence that Tonya Marie Druempel violated the South Dakota Code of Ethics for Teachers established under SDCL 13-43-25, namely ARSD 24:08:03:01(7); 24:08:03:01(8); 24:08:03:01(9); and 24:08:03:01(10).
3. Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the certificate of Tonya Marie Druempel (#74468-0) is hereby **permanently, immediately revoked**.
4. Notification of this revocation will be placed on the NASDTEC registry and be placed in Tonya Marie Druempel's permanent certification file within the South Dakota Department of Education.
5. This Order and findings and conclusions will be provided to Tonya Marie Druempel and the Executive Secretary of the Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission and the Commission's counsel, the complainant before the Commission by and through her legal counsel, and the Superintendent of the school district where Tonya Marie Druempel was last employed.
6. This Order and incorporated findings and conclusions are a public record pursuant to SDCL 13-42-17.1

This constitutes final agency action. Tonya Marie Druempel has a right to appeal pursuant to SDCL 13-42-16 unless appeal has been waived.

Dated this 17 day of December, 2015.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dr. Melody Schopp". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Dr. Melody Schopp  
Secretary  
South Dakota Department of Education  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA	)	PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS
	ss:	PRACTICES AND STANDARDS
COUNTY OF HUGHES	)	COMMISSION

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CARLA LEINGANG, ADMINISTRATOR,	)	
OFFICE OF CERTIFICATION AND	)	
TEACHER QUALITY, S.D. DEPT. OF	)	PTPSC 2015-08
EDUCATION,	)	
	)	FINDINGS OF FACT
Complainant,	)	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
	)	AND ORDER
v.	)	
	)	
TONYA MARIE DRUEPPEL,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

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This matter came on for hearing pursuant to the provisions of SDCL 13-43-28 before the South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission on October 8, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room 1, MacKay Building, 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, South Dakota, as previously scheduled and duly and formally noticed for hearing.

The following members of the South Dakota Professional Teachers Practices and Standards Commission (Commission) were present at the hearing: Connie Gretschnann, Thomas Keck, Bev Kopren and Kenneth "Lance" Vander Vorst. Paul E. Bachand, counsel for the Commission, and Ferne Haddock, Executive Secretary of the Commission, were also present. The complainant personally appeared with attorney Bobbi Rank. Tonya Marie Drueppel failed to appear at the hearing and the Commission conducted a public hearing.

Based upon the evidence presented at the hearing, the records on file and Drueppel's failure to appear at the hearing, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On or about June 28, 2012, Tonya Marie Drueppel ("Drueppel") was issued initial South Dakota teaching certificate number 74468-00. The certificate is valid until July 1, 2022.
2. On or about July 20, 2015, Carla Leingang, Administrator, Office of Certification and Teacher Quality, South Dakota Department of Education, filed a complaint against Drueppel with the Commission.



3. The complaint alleged that Drueppel violated the South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers.
4. The complaint was served on Drueppel on or about July 21, 2015.
5. A notice of hearing was served on the parties on or about August 27, 2015. The notice of hearing advised Drueppel that a hearing had been set for October 8, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room 1, MacKay Building, 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, South Dakota.
6. Drueppel failed to appear at the hearing.
7. Drueppel's failure to appear at the hearing acts as an admission to the facts as stated in the complaint.
8. On or about February 12, 2014, Drueppel was charged with the following five felonies in Minnehaha County, South Dakota: Counts (1)-(3) Rape in the Fourth Degree (wherein victim is 13 years of age, but less than 16) (SDCL § 22-22-1(5); class 3 felony) and Counts (4) and (5) Sexual Contact with a Child under 16 (SDCL § 22-22-7; class 3 felony).
9. The charges were as a result of a sexual relationship between Drueppel and a fourteen-year-old student ("Student") in the Sioux Falls School District, between September 2012 and January 2014.
10. On or about February 27, 2015, Drueppel pled guilty to Counts 4 and 5, sexual contact with a child under 16, both class 3 felonies.
11. On or about May 22, 2015, Drueppel was sentenced to fifteen (15) years in the in the South Dakota State Penitentiary with credit for 483 days served.
12. During the 2012/2013 School year, Student attended middle school in Sioux Falls and Drueppel was Student's teacher.
13. During the period in time in which Drueppel was Student's teacher, Drueppel engaged in sexual activity with Student.
14. The sexual activity included sexual contact and sexual penetration.
15. This sexual activity commenced on or about October 2012 and lasted until approximately January 2014.
16. During this period of time, Drueppel sent pornographic photos of herself to Student on two different occasions.

17. During approximately October 2013, Student spent the night at Drueppel's residence and Drueppel engaged in sexual activity with Student.
18. Any Finding of fact improperly denoted as a conclusion of law is hereby incorporated as a finding of fact.

Based upon the foregoing findings of fact, the Commission hereby issues the following conclusions of law:

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

19. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 13-43-28 and 13-43-28.1, SDCL Ch. 1-26, and the Administrative Rules of South Dakota, Chapters 24:08:03 and 24:08:04.01.
20. The burden of proof in this matter is clear and convincing. In Re: Setliff, 202 SD 58, 645 N.W.2d 601, 605.
21. The South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers provides at ARSD 24:08:03:01 that in fulfilling their obligations to students, educators shall act as follows:
  - (9) Maintain professional relationships with students in a manner which is free of vindictiveness, recrimination, or harassment.
  - (10) Not engage in or be a party to any sexual activity with students including sexual intercourse, sexual contact, sexual photography, or illicit sexual communication.
22. Clear and convincing evidence exists that Drueppel violated ARSD 24:08:03:01(9) and (10).
23. The South Dakota Code of Professional Ethics for Teachers provides at ARSD 24:08:03:02 that in fulfilling their obligations to the public, educators shall act as follows:
  - (7) Engage in no act that results in a conviction;
  - (8) Exemplify high moral standards by not engaging in or becoming a party to such activities as . . . theft, deceit, moral turpitude, gross immorality. . . [or] illegal drugs[.]
24. Clear and convincing evidence exists that Drueppel violated ARSD 24:08:03:02(7) and (8).
25. Any conclusion of law improperly denoted as a finding of fact is hereby incorporated as a conclusion of law.

Based upon the foregoing findings and conclusions, it is hereby

ORDERED that this matter be referred to the Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Education for proceedings to permanently revoke the teaching certificate of Druempel as provided for in SDCL 13-43-28. It is further

ORDERED that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order be sent to parties herein. It is further


ORDERED that a copy of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order be provided to the Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Education for placement on the NASDTEC clearing house and that it remain with the Department's permanent certification file. It is further

ORDERED that the Department may release the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order to the certification office of any state in which the respondent holds or applies for a certificate.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS PRACTICES and  
STANDARDS COMMISSION

By

  
Thomas Keck, Chair  
800 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501-2294