

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

Case No. 21623

Ginny Meredith,

STIPULATION

Respondent

BACKGROUND

The Professional Standards Commission received an allegation of unethical conduct concerning Ginny Meredith. Following an investigation, the Executive Committee of the Professional Standards Commission reviewed the information before it and determined that probable cause exists for initiating an administrative action against Ginny Meredith's certificate. The Executive Committee has recommended the following Stipulation.

STIPULATION

1. This is an agreement (Stipulation) between Ginny Meredith (Ms. Meredith) and the Executive Committee (the Executive Committee) of the Professional Standards Commission (the Commission).
2. If Ms. Meredith wishes to agree to this Stipulation, she must sign and return this Stipulation and any attachments to the Commission by 5:00 p.m. (mountain time) on **February 22, 2017**, unless she has been granted an extension.
3. After Ms. Meredith and the Executive Committee agree to and sign this Stipulation, the Stipulation must be approved by the Commission, and the Commission must enter the attached consent order, before this Stipulation resolves the matter.

STIPULATION – 1
Ginny Meredith – January 23, 2017

4. A signed copy of this Stipulation may be submitted via mail or fax to:

Professional Standards Commission
650 West State Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
Fax: (208) 334-2228 (Attn: Professional Standards Commission)

A. Stipulated Facts and Law

5. The Commission regulates teacher certification in the State of Idaho.
6. Ms. Meredith holds the following certificate and endorsements:
- a. (current) Standard Elementary Certificate with All Subjects K-8 and Literacy K-12 Endorsements – effective September 1, 2015 – valid until August 31, 2020.
 - b. (past) Standard Elementary Certificate with All Subjects K-8 and Literacy K-12 Endorsements – effective September 1, 2010 – valid until August 31, 2015.
7. During the 2015-2016 school year, Ms. Meredith was employed by the Gooding Joint School District as an elementary teacher.
8. On or about March 14, 2016, Ms. Meredith pleaded guilty to felony possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), a violation of Idaho Code § 37-2732(c)(1), in *State v. Ginny Louise Meredith*, Case No. CR-42-16-0632 (Twin Falls County District Court).
9. On or about May 10, 2016, Ms. Meredith was convicted of felony possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), a violation of Idaho Code § 37-2732(c)(1), in *State v. Ginny Louise Meredith*, Case No. CR-42-16-0632 (Twin Falls County District Court).

10. The Executive Committee determined that probable cause exists for initiating an administrative action against Ms. Meredith for violating the following law and rule governing teacher certification:

- a. Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(j) ("Willful violation of any professional code or standard of ethics or conduct, adopted by the state board of education").
- b. Code of Ethics Principle III (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.04) ("A professional educator refrains from the abuse of alcohol or drugs during the course of professional practice. Unethical conduct includes, but is not limited to: ... e. Possession of an illegal drug as defined in Chapter 27, Idaho Code, Uniform Controlled Substances.").

11. Ms. Meredith, although not admitting that she violated the law and rule cited in paragraph 10, acknowledges that there is sufficient evidence to support a finding of a violation of the law and rule cited in paragraph 10.

B. Stipulated Discipline

12. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, the following discipline will be imposed by the Commission on Ms. Meredith's certificate:

- a. Ms. Meredith's certificate will be suspended for two years and be on probation for three years following the suspension, during which the standard alcohol and drug conditions will apply (see the addendum to this Stipulation).
- b. For purposes of the suspension, it will begin on the Backdated Start Date; the Backdated Start Date will be January 23, 2016.
- c. For purposes of provision 3 of the addendum, the effective date will be the Backdated Start Date. *Except that* for the requirements of provision 3(b) in the addendum, the effective date will be the date provided in the consent order, not the Backdated Start Date.
- d. For purposes of provision 4 of the addendum, the effective date will be the Backdated State Date. For the requirements of provision 4(a) of the addendum, Ms. Meredith's primary medical provider will not be

required to submit either the six-month or 12-month medical status report, but will still be required to provide the 18-month and 24-month medical status reports, as calculated from the Backdated Start Date.

13. Any costs associated with Ms. Meredith's compliance with the terms of this Stipulation are her responsibility.

14. During the pendency of this Stipulation, Ms. Meredith will comply with all laws and rules governing teacher certification in Idaho.

C. Presentation of this Stipulation

15. Once Ms. Meredith signs this Stipulation and timely returns it to the Commission, and the Executive Committee signs this Stipulation, the Deputy Attorney General assigned to the Commission will present this Stipulation to the Commission at the Commission's next business meeting.

16. The Commission may accept, reject, or modify the Stipulation.

17. If the Commission modifies this Stipulation, it must receive Ms. Meredith's approval on any modification before the Stipulation is effective.

D. Waiver of Rights

18. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, Ms. Meredith knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waives the following rights:

- a. the right to a hearing;
- b. the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses;
- c. the right to present evidence or to call witnesses, or to testify at a hearing;
- d. the right to reconsideration of the Commission's orders;
- e. the right to judicial review of the Commission's orders; and
- f. other rights accorded by the Idaho Administrative Procedure Act, and the law and rules governing teacher certification in the State of Idaho.

19. If this Stipulation is approved by the Commission, the Commission may impose discipline upon Ms. Meredith's certificate without further process.

20. By signing this Stipulation, Ms. Meredith agrees to waive any requirement for a hearing under Idaho Code § 33-1209(3) to be conducted within 90 days of her request for a hearing. This waiver applies to any hearing request made before the Commission ultimately rejects this Stipulation (if it does) or before Ms. Meredith ultimately rejects a modified stipulation (if Ms. Meredith does). If the Commission ultimately rejects this Stipulation or if Ms. Meredith ultimately rejects a modified stipulation, and Ms. Meredith has requested a hearing, the 90-day hearing timeframe will begin from the ultimate rejection.

E. General Acknowledgments

21. This Stipulation contains the entire agreement between the parties, and Ms. Meredith is not relying on any other agreement or representation, whether verbal or written.

22. This Stipulation, if approved by the Commission, or modified and approved, resolves a contested case. If approved, the Stipulation, consent order, and any attachment are public records. And if approved, the Commission may make available through its or the State Department of Education's website a copy of the Stipulation, consent order, and any attachment, and may report any discipline to the national clearinghouse for teacher certification.

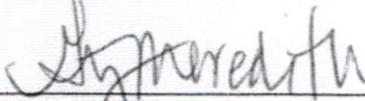
23. Ms. Meredith agrees that she has read this Stipulation, has had the opportunity to discuss it with legal counsel, if she so chose, and understands that by signing below, she will be agreeing to the terms of this Stipulation.

SIGNATURES

Respondent

The respondent, Ginny Meredith, agrees to this Stipulation.

DATED this 7th day of April, 2017.



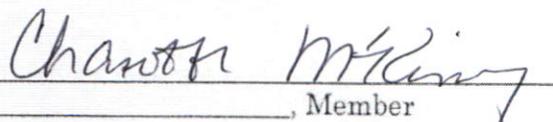
Ginny Meredith
Respondent

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee recommends that the Commission enter an Order based upon this Stipulation.

DATED this 9 day of June, 2017.

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
COMMISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



, Member

STANDARD DRUG AND ALCOHOL CONDITIONS – ADDENDUM

The following standard drug and alcohol conditions apply to Ginny Meredith (Ms. Meredith).

1. **Medical release.** Within 30 days of the effective date of this Stipulation, Ms. Meredith will submit to the Commission a copy of a signed medical release form that has been prepared by the Commission (attached to this Stipulation). A signed copy of this form must be given to her primary medical care provider and each medical provider she visits for drug- or alcohol-related diagnosis, consultation, or treatment.
2. **Drug and alcohol evaluation.** Within 30 days of the effective date of this Stipulation, Ms. Meredith will submit to the Commission a recent (within 30 days or less), comprehensive drug and alcohol evaluation completed by a qualified, Commission approved evaluator.
3. **Drug and alcohol testing.** Ms. Meredith agrees to participate in random urinalysis (UA) testing. For 24 months following the effective date of this Stipulation, she will be required to submit to at least 12 random UA tests. At the end of 24 months, she will be required to submit to quarterly random UA tests for the remaining probationary term.
 - a. Ms. Meredith will not miss any UA to which she has been asked to submit, or provide a sample that is insufficient, for any reason, for testing purposes. If this occurs, she will be considered to have failed the test.
 - b. In furtherance of these requirements, Ms. Meredith will enroll and participate in the Professional Health Monitoring testing program run by FirstLab, within 30 days of this Stipulation's effective date, unless

she can provide documentation that a sufficient number of random UA tests are already being conducted by a medical provider or other facility as part of her treatment plan, and that the results will be made available to the Commission.

- c. The results of the UAs must be negative for alcohol or any other drug that is not prescribed by a medical provider with whom Ms. Meredith has an established patient-provider relationship. If a UA test is positive for any properly prescribed drug, the level must not exceed the prescribed dosage.

4. **Medical provider.** Ms. Meredith will ensure that she maintains a provider-patient relationship with her primary medical provider responsible for managing all Ms. Meredith's care. The medical provider will be provided a copy of this Stipulation.

- a. Ms. Meredith will ensure that Ms. Meredith's primary medical provider submits medical status reports to Commission staff as follows: (1) at six months from the effective date of this Stipulation, (2) at 12 months from the effective date of this Stipulation, (3) at 18 months from the effective date of this Stipulation, and (4) at 24 months from the effective date of this Stipulation. At the conclusion of Ms. Meredith's suspension, she must request that her primary medical provider submit an "Exit Treatment Plan" to the Commission. In addition to any medications and the dosage of such medications she should continue to take, the Exit Treatment Plan should address any concerns the primary medical provider may have about Ms. Meredith's continued recovery.

5. **Documentation of active recovery.** Ms. Meredith will submit documentation of her active participation in a recovery program, including regular and sustained attendance at twelve-step meetings, an endorsement by her twelve-step sponsor, and evidence of completion of a relapse prevention program with an outline of a relapse prevention plan.

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:

Ginny Meredith,

Respondent

Case No. 21623

CONSENT ORDER

The Professional Standards Commission orders that the Stipulation, entered between Ginny Meredith and the Executive Committee, is adopted as the informal disposition of this case, as permitted under Idaho Code § 67-5241. It will be effective on the 9 day of June, 2017. The discipline listed in the Stipulation is imposed on Ginny Meredith's certificate under Idaho Code §§ 33-1208 and 33-1209. This is a final agency order, and Ginny Meredith has waived the right of reconsideration and the right to judicial review.

IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
COMMISSION


Elisa Saffle, Member

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 9 day of June, 2007, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

Ginny Meredith



- U.S. Mail
- Hand Delivery
- Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
- Overnight Mail
- Facsimile:
- Email:

Brian V. Church
Deputy Attorney General
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0010

- U.S. Mail
- Hand Delivery
- Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
- Overnight Mail
- Facsimile: (208) 854-8073
- Email:
brian.church@ag.idaho.gov
leslie.gottsch@ag.idaho.gov

Shannon H. Haas
Program Specialist
Idaho State Department of Education



STATE OF IDAHO
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE
650 W State Street
PHONE
(208) 332-6884
FAX
(208) 334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING IMPAIRED
(800) 377-3529

RE: Ginny Meredith
Professional Standards Commission Case No. 21623

MEDICAL RELEASE (CONTINUED)

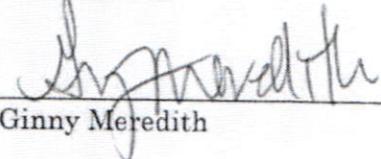
Expiration date or revocation

This authorization is subject to revocation at any time, except to the extent that the program that is to make the disclosure has already taken action in reliance on it. In order to revoke this authorization, Ginny Meredith must revoke the authorization in writing, and that writing must be signed by Ginny Meredith and delivered to the Professional Standards Commission. The revocation will be effective upon the Professional Standards Commission's receipt of the revocation. If not previously revoked, this authorization will terminate upon the successful completion of both Ginny Meredith's ordered suspension *and* ordered probation, for Professional Standards Commission Case No. 21623.

Required notice

Federal regulations implementing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 or regulations implementing the Public Health Service Act require the Professional Standards Commission to provide certain notices to the individual authorizing the release of health information. The individual's enrollment in a health plan, eligibility for benefits, treatment, or payment, may not be conditioned upon the individual's authorization of this disclosure. Any information disclosed as a result of this authorization may be subject to re-disclosure by the recipient and may no longer be protected by law.

DATED this 7th day of April, 2017.



Ginny Meredith



STATE OF IDAHO
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE
650 W State Street
PHONE
(208) 332-6884
FAX
(208) 334-2228
SPEECH HEARING IMPAIRED
(800) 377-3529

RE: Ginny Meredith
Professional Standards Commission Case No. 21623

MEDICAL RELEASE

Authorization

I, Ginny Meredith, authorize the provider (or covered entity) to whom I submit this form to discuss and release health information to the staff of the Idaho Professional Standards Commission, an agency of the State of Idaho. The address, telephone and fax number of that entity are:

Professional Standards Commission
650 West State Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
Telephone: (208) 332-6884
Facsimile: (208) 334-2228

Purpose

The purpose of this medical release is to comply with a stipulated agreement that was adopted by an order of the Professional Standards Commission, which regulates teacher certification in the State of Idaho.

Health information

The health information that I authorize the provider (or covered entity) to discuss and release includes the following information: (a) the results and notes for drug and alcohol evaluations; (b) the results of random urinalysis testing; (c) medical status reports concerning drug or alcohol use or abuse; (d) medical exit treatment plans; (e) documentation concerning active recovery, such as documentation of attendance at a twelve-step program, an endorsement from the twelve-step sponsor, and evidence of completion of a relapse prevention plan; (f) information pertaining to a relapse or improper use of drugs or alcohol before the termination or revocation of this release.

I understand that the information I am authorizing to be released may include information concerning drug or alcohol abuse, diagnosis, or treatment.

I authorize the release of health information that was captured, documented, or otherwise created on or after January 1, 2016, until the termination or revocation of this authorization.

MEDICAL RELEASE - 1
Ginny Meredith

6. **Other information.** Ms. Meredith will submit any other requested information deemed necessary by the Commission in its discretion to demonstrate her fitness to resume teaching.