IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:                             Case No. 21826

David M. Ethington,                                            FINAL ORDER
Respondent

The Chief Certification Officer for the State of Idaho filed an Administrative Complaint
against the educator certificate issued to David M. Ethington, seeking for the Professional
Standards Commission to impose discipline on Mr. Ethington’s certificate. See Idaho Code § 33-
1209. Because Mr. Ethington did not request a hearing within 30 days, and because Mr. Ethington
was determined to be in default by a hearing/presiding officer, the allegations in the Administrative
Complaint are treated as admitted, Idaho Code § 33-1209(3), and are incorporated by reference as
findings of fact.

Based on these findings, the Professional Standards Commission concludes that Mr.
Ethington willfully violated the following principles of the Code of Ethics adopted by the State
Board of Education. Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(j).

The Commission specifically holds that Mr. Ethington’s conduct or course of conduct
violated Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(f) (“Conviction, finding of guilt, withheld judgment or
suspended sentence, in this or any other state of a crime involving moral turpitude”).

Mr. Ethington’s conduct or course of conduct willfully violated a principle of the code of
ethics that was adopted by the Idaho State Board of Education. 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”). Specifically, Mr. Ethington violated Code of Ethics Principle II (Idaho
Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.03) (“A professional educator maintains a professional relationship
with all students, both inside and outside the physical and virtual classroom.”).

FINAL ORDER - 1
David M. Ethington
Mr. Ethington’s conduct or course of conduct willfully violated a principle of the code of ethics that was adopted by the Idaho State Board of Education. 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"). Specifically, Mr. Ethington violated Code of Ethics Principle X (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.11) ("Any conduct that seriously impairs the Certificate holder’s ability to teach or perform his professional duties.").

Under Idaho Code § 33-1208, the Professional Standards Commission orders that the following discipline (as marked) be imposed on Mr. Ethington’s certificate:

*As requested in the Administrative Complaint*

- [ ] The discipline requested by the Chief Certification Officer in her Request for Relief in the Administrative Complaint.

*Other discipline*

- [ ] Mr. Ethington’s certificate is revoked.

- [ ] Mr. Ethington’s certificate is permanently revoked under Idaho Code § 33-1208(2).

- [ ] Mr. Ethington’s certificate is suspended for _____ years _____ months

- [ ] Mr. Ethington’s certificate is suspended indefinitely pending completion of the following conditions:

  1. 
  2. 
  3. 
  4. 

- [ ] Mr. Ethington’s certificate has the following conditions placed upon it.

  1. 
  2. 
  3. 
  4. 

- [ ] A letter of reprimand will be placed in Mr. Ethington’s permanent certification file.

*Final Order - 2*

David M. Ethington
This Order is effective on the day it is signed. This Order and the Administrative Complaint, which will be attached to this Order, are public records, and may be made available on the State Department of Education or the Commission’s website.

DATED this 14th day of November, 2019.

Elisa Saffle, Member
Idaho Professional Standards Commission
RECONSIDERATION AND JUDICIAL REVIEW

This is a final order of the Professional Standards Commission. Any party may file a motion for reconsideration of this order within 14 days of the service date of this order. The agency will dispose of the petition for reconsideration within 21 days of its receipt; if not, the petition will be denied as a matter of law. See Idaho Code § 67-5246. Petitions for reconsideration may be filed by mail addressed to the Professional Standards Commission, State Department of Education, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0027, or hand delivered to the Commission at 650 West State Street, Second Floor, Boise, ID 83720.

Any party aggrieved by this final order or orders previously issued in this case may seek judicial review of the orders in this case in district court. A party may do this by filing a petition for judicial review in the district court as provided in Idaho Code §§ 67-5270 and 67-5272. The petition must be filed within 28 days of the service date of this final order; or, if a motion for reconsideration is filed, within 28 days of the service of a decision on the motion for reconsideration or denial of the motion as a matter of law. Idaho Code § 67-5273. The filing of a petition for judicial review does not itself stay the effectiveness or enforcement of the agency action. Idaho Code § 67-5274.
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 22 day of November, 2019, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

David M. Ethington

☐ U.S. Mail
☐ Hand Delivery
☒ Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
☐ Overnight Mail
☐ Email:

Robert A. Berry
Deputy Attorney General
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0010

☐ U.S. Mail
☐ Hand Delivery
☐ Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested
☐ Facsimile:
☒ Email: robert.berry@ag.idaho.gov
      leslie.gottsch@ag.idaho.gov

Anne Schwaeb
Program Specialist
Idaho State Department of Education

Final Order - 5
David M. Ethington
IDAHO PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMISSION

In the matter of the certificate of:  

David M. Ethington,  

Respondent

Case No. 21826

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT

Lisa Colón Durham, Chief Certification Officer for the State of Idaho, alleges the following against David M. Ethington.

GENERAL AVERMENTS


2. The Chief Certification Officer is empowered to file an administrative complaint against the certificate of a teacher or other individual certified under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education. Idaho Code § 33-1209.

3. Mr. Ethington held the following certificate and endorsements issued under the authority of the Idaho State Board of Education:

4. Mr. Ethington was employed by Bruneau-Grand View Joint School District #365 ("District") for the 2015-2016 school year.

5. A.R.M. was a senior student in the District for the 2015-2016 school year.

6. On August 7, 2018, an Amended Criminal Information was filed against Mr. Ethington in the matter of State of Idaho v. David M. Ethington, Case No. CR-2016-5544-M, in the District Court of the Third Judicial District of the State of Idaho, in and for the County of Owyhee. A true and correct copy of the Amended Criminal Information is attached as Exhibit A.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT – 1
David M. Ethington
7. Count I of the Amended Criminal Information alleged as follows:

That the Defendant DAVID M. ETHINGTON on or about the 3rd of October, 2015, in the County of Owyhee, State of Idaho, did knowingly, willfully and unlawfully, under circumstances or conditions other than those likely to produce great bodily harm or death, did cause or permit commit a child to suffer, or did inflict thereon unjustifiable mental suffering or physical pain upon and with a minor A.R.M., date of birth March 11, 1998, who was seventeen (17) years of age at the time by inserting his penis into her vagina thereby having direct genital to genital contact, with the intent to gratify the sexual desire of the Defendant and/or said minor child, where the Defendant was over the age of eighteen (18) years, to-wit: thirty-four (34) years old and at least five years older than A.R.M., such being in violation of INJURY TO CHILD, IDAHO CODE §18-1501(2), (MISDEMEANOR).

8. Count II of the Amended Criminal Information alleged as follows:

That the Defendant DAVID M. ETHINGTON on or about January and February through March 02, 2016, in the County of Owyhee, State of Idaho, did knowingly, willfully and unlawfully, under circumstances or conditions other than those likely to produce great bodily harm or death, did cause or permit commit a child to suffer, or did inflict thereon unjustifiable mental suffering or physical pain upon and with a minor A.R.M., date of birth March 11, 1998, who was seventeen (17) years of age at the time by inserting his penis into her vagina thereby having direct genital to genital contact, with the intent to gratify the sexual desire of the Defendant and/or said minor child, where the Defendant was over the age of eighteen (18) years, to-wit: thirty-four (34) years old and at least five years older than A.R.M., such being in violation of INJURY TO CHILD, IDAHO CODE §18-1501(2), (MISDEMEANOR).

9. Idaho Code § 18-1501(2) provides as follows:

Any person who, under circumstances or conditions other than those likely to produce great bodily harm or death, willfully causes or permits any child to suffer, or inflicts thereon unjustifiable physical pain or mental suffering, or having the care or custody of any child, willfully causes or permits the person or health of such child to be injured, or willfully causes or permits such child to be placed in such situation that its person or health may be endangered, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

10. On August 29, 2018, withheld judgments on both counts alleged in the Amended Criminal Information were entered in the District Court of the Third Judicial District of the State

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT – 2
David M. Ethington
of Idaho, in and for County of Owyhee. A true and correct copy of the withheld judgments are attached as Exhibit B.

**Count I**

11. Mr. Ethington’s conduct or course of conduct violated Idaho Code § 33-1208(1)(f) ("Conviction, finding of guilt, withheld judgment or suspended sentence, in this or any other state of a crime involving moral turpitude.") (emphasis added).¹

**Count II**

12. Mr. Ethington’s conduct or course of conduct willfully violated a principle of the code of ethics that was adopted by the Idaho State Board of Education. 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"). Specifically, Mr. Ethington violated Code of Ethics Principle III (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.03) ("A professional educator maintains a professional relationship with all students, both inside and outside the physical and virtual classroom.").

**Count III**

13. Mr. Ethington’s conduct or course of conduct willfully violated a principle of the code of ethics that was adopted by the Idaho State Board of Education. 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"). Specifically, Mr. Ethington violated Code of Ethics Principle X (Idaho Admin. Code r. 08.02.02.076.11.a) ("Any conduct that seriously impairs the Certificate holder’s ability to teach or perform his professional duties.").

//

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¹ See Gonzalez-Cervantes v. Holder, 709 F.3d 1265, 1267 (9th Cir. 2013).
REQUEST FOR RELIEF

The Chief Certification Officer requests that the Commission grant the following relief, as permitted under Idaho Code §§ 33-1208 and 33-1209:

1. Revoke Mr. Ethington’s certificate and his property right in said certificate².

2. That if Mr. Ethington requests a hearing, a hearing be conducted before a hearing panel, where the Chief Certification Officer and Mr. Ethington may present evidence concerning the allegations in this Administrative Complaint, to aid the hearing panel in determining whether Mr. Ethington’s certificate should be disciplined and, if so, what discipline should be imposed.

3. Any other relief that would be just under the circumstances.

DATED this 21 day of February, 2019.

Lisa Colón Durham
Chief Certification Officer

Attorney for the
Chief Certification Officer
Robert A. Berry
Deputy Attorney General
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0010
(208) 334-2400
robert.berry@ag.idaho.gov

² “The professional standards commission may investigate and follow the procedures set forth in section 33-1209, Idaho Code, for any allegation of inappropriate conduct as defined in this section, by a holder of a certificate whether or not the holder has surrendered his certificate without a hearing or failed to renew his certificate. In those cases where the holder of a certificate has surrendered or failed to renew his certificate and it was found that inappropriate conduct occurred, the commission shall record such findings in the permanent record of the individual and shall deny the issuance of a teaching certificate.” Idaho Code § 33-1208(3)
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 21st day of February, 2019, I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the foregoing by the following method to:

David M. Ethington

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

Attorney for the
Chief Certification Officer
Robert A. Berry
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: robert.berry@ag.idaho.gov
      leslie.gottsch@ag.idaho.gov

Annette Schwab
Program Specialist
Idaho State Department of Education

ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLAINT – 5
David M. Ethington
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF
STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF OYWHEE

STATE OF IDAHO,

Plaintiff,

v.

DAVID M. ETHINGTON,

Defendant.

Case No. CR-2016-5544-M

AMENDED
CRIMINAL INFORMATION
for the crimes of:

COUNT I
INJURY TO CHILD, (M)
IDAHO CODE §18-1501(2)

COUNT II
INJURY TO CHILD, (M)
IDAHO CODE §18-1501(2)

Douglas D. Emery, Prosecuting Attorney in and for the County of Owyhee,
State of Idaho, and informs said Court that the above named Defendant stands
accuse by this AMENDED Information of the two (2) counts of the crimes, INJURY
TO CHILD, IDAHO CODE §18-1501(2), (MISDEMEANOR), to-wit:

COUNT I

That the Defendant DAVID M. ETHINGTON on or about the 3rd of October,
2015, in the County of Owyhee, State of Idaho, did knowingly, willfully and unlawfully, under circumstances or conditions other than those likely to produce great bodily harm or death, did cause or permit commit a child to suffer, or did inflict thereon unjustifiable mental suffering or physical pain upon and with a minor A.R.M., date of birth March 11, 1998, who was seventeen (17) years of age at the time by inserting his penis into her vagina thereby having direct genital to genital contact, with the intent to gratify the sexual desire of the Defendant and/or said minor child, where the Defendant was over the age of eighteen (18) years, to-wit: thirty-four (34) years old and at least five years older than A.R.M., such being in violation of INJURY TO CHILD, IDAHO CODE §18-1501(2), (MISDEMEANOR).

COUNT II

That the Defendant DAVID M. ETHINGTON on or about January and February through March 02, 2016, in the County of Owyhee, State of Idaho, did knowingly, willfully and unlawfully, under circumstances or conditions other than those likely to produce great bodily harm or death, did cause or permit commit a child to suffer, or did inflict thereon unjustifiable mental suffering or physical pain upon and with a minor A.R.M., date of birth March 11, 1998, who was seventeen (17) years of age at the time by inserting his penis into her vagina thereby having direct genital to genital contact, with the intent to gratify the sexual desire of the Defendant and/or said minor child, where the Defendant was over the age of eighteen (18) years, to-wit: thirty-four (34) years old and at least five years older than A.R.M., such being in violation of INJURY TO CHILD, IDAHO CODE §18-1501(2), (MISDEMEANOR).

AMENDED INFORMATION
DATED this 7th day of August, 2018.

Douglas D. Emery
Owyhee County Prosecuting Attorney

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 7th day of August, 2018, I placed a true and correct copy of the foregoing AMENDED Information in the United States mail, postage prepaid, and addressed to the following:

Gerald Bublitz, Esq.
Bublitz Law, P.C.
604 North 16th Street
Boise, ID 83702

Brandi Hudman
Legal Assistant
Owyhee County Prosecutor's Office

AMENDED INFORMATION
EXHIBIT B
STATE OF IDAHO VS. David M. Ethington 935 W. 100 South Blackfoot, Idaho 83221 DOB: 5/05/1982

JUDGMENT

AGENCY: OWYHEE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
CASE # CR-2016-5544*M
CHARGE: 118-1501(1)(M) Injury to a Child
AMENDED TO: __________________________
The Defendant having been fully advised of his/her constitutional rights including the right to remain silent, the right to an attorney, the right to a jury trial, and the right to confront witnesses; and the Defendant understands the consequences of a guilty plea;
With respect to the above offense, the:
☐ Defendant pleaded / was found guilty ☐ State moved to dismiss this charge.
☐ Defendant was found not guilty
JUDGMENT: ☐ Conviction is entered. ☐ Charge is dismissed.
☒ Judgment is withheld for 24 months.
THE BOND IS: ☐ Exonerated ☐ To be applied to the fine and costs.
PAYMENTS: The defendant shall pay immediately, or as provided below, as follows:
$ 151.50, which includes fine and court costs. $___________ of the fine is suspended.
$_________, restitution to ____________________________________________________________
y by __________.
$_________ reimbursement to county for attorney or Public Defender.
Pay $_________ per month to begin ___________________________ and sign payment agreement.
Paid in full by _____________________________.
If the defendant does NOT pay the fine/costs/fees/restitution/reimbursement by the time set out above, s/he must PERSONALLY APPEAR before this court on ___________________________at the hour of 9:00 A.M. to explain any amount remaining unpaid.

SEND PAYMENTS (include case number) TO:
OWYHEE COUNTY CLERK TELEPHONE: (208) 495-2806
PO Box 128 ALL INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS ARE
Murphy, Idaho 83650 SUBJECT TO A $2.00 HANDLING
ALL CREDIT AND DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MURPHY COURTHOUSE ONLY FEE FOR EACH PARTIAL PAYMENT.
(495-2806) WITH AN ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGY FEE OF $3.00 ADDED.
PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE ON LINE BY GOING TO THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE: mycourts.idaho.gov
JAIL: Defendant shall serve ___ days in jail, with _____ days suspended and credit for ___ days served. Defendant shall report to jail on or before _______________ by ______________ P.M.
☐ Work release granted at defendant’s expense.
☐ Defendant may do ______ hours of community service by __________________ in lieu of jail.
☐ Jail may be served in __________________ County at defendant’s expense.
☐ May serve jail on non-employment days upon advance payment to Sheriff’s Office of $35.00 per day, up to $700.00.
☐ This jail sentence is concurrent / consecutive with any jail sentence previously ordered.

ALL JAIL TIME IS SUBJECT TO A MANDATORY SHERIFF’S FEE OF $25.00 PER DAY UP TO $500.00, BUT ONLY IF YOU HAVE SUFFICIENT ASSETS AVAILABLE AND THAT COLLECTION WILL NOT CAUSE YOU OR YOUR DEPENDENTS TO QUALIFY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

☐ DRIVING / HUNTING PRIVILEGES: Defendant’s driving privileges are suspended for _______________ days/months/years, beginning on _______________.
☐ the date of this judgment.  ☐ _______________; 20

PROBATION: The Defendant is placed on supervised / unsupervised probation for ______ months. If supervised, contact Probation Officer ___________ days and pay $40.00 per month for each month of supervised probation. During the period of probation, the Defendant shall:
☐ Not refuse evidentiary test for alcohol or drugs request by a peace officer or probation officer.
☐ Not consume illegal drugs or prescription drugs without a valid prescription.
☐ Not consume alcohol.
☐ Keep Court informed of Defendant’s current mailing address and telephone number.
☐ Not commit a felony or misdemeanor.
☐ Pay sums and serve jail sentence as ordered above.
☐ Not operate a motor vehicle in Idaho without a valid driver’s license and liability insurance.
☐ Perform ______ hours of community service for an approved agency to be completed by ___________ and pay community service fees of one dollar per hour for a total of $______________.
☐ Within _______ days, enroll in, and then promptly complete all recommended treatment.
☐ Report to the Owyhee County Probation Office within 5 days and follow the terms of their supervision agreement.
☐ Complete any classes and/or treatment recommended by the Probation Department.

☐ Defendant will be placed on 12 mo. supervised probation
Followed by 12 mo. unsupervised probation

Dated: 8/28/18

Signed: ___________________________  Judge No.

Christopher S. Nye
District Judge

Copies to: ☐ Defendant ☐ Defendant’s Counsel ☐ Restitution Officer ☐ Probation Officer
☐ Prosecutor ☐ Jail ☐ Supreme Court ☐ Fish & Game
☐ Department of Transportation
STATE OF IDAHO VS.
David M. Ethington
935 W. 100 South
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221
DOB: 5/05/1982

JUDGMENT

AGENCY: Owyhee County Prosecuting Attorney
CASE # CR-2016-5544*M
CHARGE: 118-1501(1)(M) Injury to a Child
AMENDED TO:

The Defendant having been fully advised of his/her constitutional rights including the right to remain silent, the right to an attorney, the right to a jury trial, and the right to confront witnesses; and the Defendant understands the consequences of a guilty plea;

With respect to the above offense, the:

☐ Defendant pleaded / was found guilty  ☐ State moved to dismiss this charge.

☐ Defendant was found not guilty

JUDGMENT: ☐ Conviction is entered.  ☐ Charge is dismissed.
☒ Judgment is withheld for 24 months.

THE BOND IS:  ☐ Exonerated  ☐ To be applied to the fine and costs.

PAYMENTS: The defendant shall pay immediately, or as provided below, as follows:

$151.50, which includes fine and court costs. $ of the fine is suspended.

$ by .

$ reimbursement to county for attorney or Public Defender.

Pay $ per month to begin and sign payment agreement.

Paid in full by .

If the defendant does NOT pay the fine/costs/fees/restitution/reimbursement by the time set out above, s/he must PERSONALLY APPEAR before this court on at the hour of 9:00 A.M. to explain any amount remaining unpaid.

SEND PAYMENTS (include case number) TO:
Owyhee County Clerk
PO Box 128
Murphy, Idaho 83650

TELEPHONE: (208) 495-2806

ALL INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO A $2.00 HANDLING FEE FOR EACH PARTIAL PAYMENT.

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE MURPHY COURTHOUSE ONLY (495-2806) WITH AN ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGY FEE OF $3.00 ADDED.

PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE ON LINE BY GOING TO THE FOLLOWING WEB SITE: mycourts.idaho.gov
JAIL: Defendant shall serve 30 days in jail, with _____ days suspended and credit for _____ days served. Defendant shall report to jail on or before October 14, 2018 by 5:00 PM
☐ Work release granted at defendant's expense.
☐ Defendant may do _____ hours of community service by ___________________ in lieu of jail.
☒ Jail may be served in Pocatello County at defendant's expense.
☐ May serve jail on non-employment days upon advance payment to Sheriff's Office of $35.00 per day, up to $700.00.
☒ This jail sentence is concurrent / consecutive with any jail sentence previously ordered.

ALL JAIL TIME IS SUBJECT TO A MANDATORY SHERIFF'S FEE OF $25.00 PER DAY UP TO $500.00, BUT ONLY IF YOU HAVE SUFFICIENT ASSETS AVAILABLE AND THAT COLLECTION WILL NOT CAUSE YOU OR YOUR DEPENDENTS TO QUALIFY FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

☐ DRIVING / HUNTING PRIVILEGES: Defendant's driving privileges are suspended for ________ days/months/years, beginning on ___/__/__.
☐ the date of this judgment.

PROBATION: The Defendant is placed on supervised / unsupervised probation for 12 each months. If supervised, contact Probation Officer within 5 days and pay $40.00 per month for each month of supervised probation. During the period of probation, the Defendant shall:
☐ Not refuse evidentiary test for alcohol or drugs request by a peace officer or probation officer.
☐ Not consume illegal drugs or prescription drugs without a valid prescription.
☐ Not consume alcohol.
☐ Keep Court informed of Defendant's current mailing address and telephone number.
☐ Not commit a felony or misdemeanor.
☐ Pay sums and serve jail sentence as ordered above.
☐ Not operate a motor vehicle in Idaho without a valid driver's license and liability insurance.
☐ Perform _____ hours of community service for an approved agency to be completed by ___/__/___ and pay community service fees of one dollar per hour for a total of $______.
☐ Within _____ days, enroll in, and then promptly complete all required treatment.
☐ Report to the Owyhee County Probation Office within 5 days and follow the terms of their supervision agreement.
☐ Complete any classes and/or treatment recommended by the Probation Department.

*Defendant will be placed on 12 mo supervised probation, followed by 12 mo unsupervised probation.

Dated: 8/29/18

Signed: Christopher S. Nye
District Judge

Judge No.

Copies to: ☐ Defendant ☐ Defendant's Counsel ☐ Restitution Officer ☐ Probation Officer
☐ Prosecutor ☐ Jail ☐ Supreme Court ☐ Fish & Game
☐ Department of Transportation