

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
LISANDRA ZINGARO : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 0304-287

At its meeting of June 10, 2004, the State Board of Examiners reviewed information received from the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) regarding Lisandra Zingaro. DYFS had investigated and substantiated allegations of sexual abuse against Zingaro. DYFS also investigated allegations of neglect and lack of supervision regarding Zingaro and two students. Zingaro allegedly had a sexual relationship with one student and allowed him to consume alcohol in her home. She also allowed another student to use cocaine in her home. Zingaro currently holds Teacher of English and Teacher of Elementary School Certificates of Eligibility With Advanced Standing, both issued in June 1999, and Teacher of English and Teacher of Elementary School certificates, both issued in September 2000. Upon review of the above information, at its June 10, 2004, meeting, the State Board of Examiners voted to issue Zingaro an Order to Show Cause.

The Board sent Zingaro the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on July 27, 2004. The Order provided that Zingaro's Answer was due within 30 days. Both copies were returned as undeliverable and the Motor Vehicles Commission could not provide a current address for her. The Order to Show Cause was published in two New Jersey newspapers on August 14 and 17, 2005. Zingaro did not respond to the published notice.

The threshold issue before the State Board of Examiners in this matter, therefore, is whether Zingaro's alleged conduct of having a sexual relationship with one student and permitting the same student to consume alcohol and her conduct allowing another student to use cocaine in her home constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder. At its meeting of November 3, 2005, the State Board of Examiners reviewed the charges in the Order to Show Cause. Since Zingaro had not responded to the Order, the charges were deemed admitted. Thus, the Board of Examiners determined that summary decision was appropriate in this matter. *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.7(h)*.

The State Board of Examiners must now determine whether Zingaro's conduct as set forth in the Order to Show Cause, provides just cause to act against her certificates pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A:9-17.5. The Board finds that it does.

The State Board of Examiners 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:9-17.5. "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. Zingaro's acts of having a sexual relationship with a student and serving that student alcohol and allowing another student to use cocaine in her home are inexcusable for any individual, teacher or not.

Accordingly, it is therefore ORDERED that Lisandra Zingaro's Teacher of English and Teacher of Elementary School Certificates of Eligibility With Advanced Standing, and Teacher of English and Teacher of Elementary School certificates be revoked on this 3rd day of November 2005. It is further ORDERED that Zingaro return her certificates to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Licensure, PO Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within 20 days of the mailing date of this decision.

Robert R. Higgins, Acting Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing: DECEMBER 2, 2005

Appeals may be made to the State Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A.* 18A:6-28.