

**NOTE:**

The allegations and decision in this case fall under old rules. It has been classified under the most relevant of the current code sections and subsections.

**IOWA BOARD OF EDUCATIONAL EXAMINERS**

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[REDACTED]	:	
. Complainant,	:	Case No. 88-6 A
vs.	:	Certificate No. 203765
JULIE ANN RIGGERT,	:	HEARING DECISION
Respondent.	:	

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This matter came before the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners on August 17, 1990. Complainant appeared in person and with her counsel, Linnea M. Nelson of the Legal Services Corporation of Iowa. Respondent neither appeared in person nor through counsel. Respondent did file an Answer with the Board on August 9, 1990. Counsel filed a Statement with the Board on August 9, 1990 stating that counsel as well as the Respondent respectfully declined to participate in an evidentiary hearing. The matter proceeded to hearing before the Commission. Those members present were Calvin Halliburton, Chairperson, Vicki Hansen, Rachel Stewart, Don Gunderson, Dan Martinez, Rhea Walker. Orrin Nearhoof, Executive Director was also present. After hearing the evidence and viewing certain exhibits, the Board now makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Decree.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Complainant is now a 23 year old college graduate employed in the Iowa City area. At all times material in the Complaint, she was a student.
2. At all times material, Julie Riggert was a teacher and coach in the Jesup, Washburn and Waterloo school systems.
3. [REDACTED] testified that in 1979 when she was 12 years old she developed a close friendship with her 7th grade teacher, Julie Riggert, who taught math, reading and P.E. The Complainant testified that she became very close to this teacher and that she became a good friend. Apparently, she accepted automobile rides home after volleyball games or other supporting events. The two became close friends and apparently went together to beaches, movies and shopping.
4. In the Summer, 1979 the relationship developed into something completely different. [REDACTED] testified that beginning at that time and continuing for many years after the

relationship developed into a physical, sexual relationship. [REDACTED] testified and described in considerable detail many occasions where she was with her teacher and the two engaged in intimate sexual behavior.

5. That in addition to [REDACTED], one Kris Burling, a family therapist and doctoral candidate at the University of Iowa, an individual who had treated [REDACTED] for a considerable period of time testified. Ms. Burling stated that in her opinion, she believed that Julie Riggert had solicited a friendship from [REDACTED] which had fostered dependence and which was later abused. Ms. Burling testified that the long term consequences of the sexual relationship were that [REDACTED] had "lost her childhood", had developed depressive symptoms which later involved suicidal ideation and elements of clinical depression. Ms. Burling opined that [REDACTED] would need some form of counseling and therapy for a considerable period and perhaps for the rest of her life.

6. In addition to the testimony of [REDACTED] and Ms. Burling, certain exhibits were received into evidence. Specifically, the Board was provided the following:

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| Exhibit No. 1 | A deposition of Audrey L. Smith,  |
| Exhibit No. 2 | An Affidavit of Ann Vernon, Ph.D  |
| Exhibit No. 3 | An Affidavit of David M. Hansell  |
| Exhibit No. 4 | The verified statement of [REDACTED] dated 8/16/90  |
| Exhibit No. 5 | Statement given by [REDACTED] to Dr. Robert Lembke, March, 1988   |
| Exhibit No. 6 | Letter from Dr. Norman L. Story dated 4/29/88 to Dr. Ann Vernon   |
| Exhibit No. 7 | Letter from [REDACTED] dated 4/29/88 to Dean Thomas J. Switzer, Dean of the College of Education, University of Northern Iowa |

Additionally, a series of eleven spiral notebooks of writings and summaries written by [REDACTED] in detail about the relationship with Julie Riggert.

7. Sergeant Kenneth T. Conlee of the Cedar Falls Police Department also testified. Sergeant Conlee testified that he conducted an investigation when he first became aware of the allegations at a time when [REDACTED] was a student at UNI

University. He stated in the course of his investigation he met with UNI officials including Dr. Story, Kris Burling and [REDACTED].

8. Later, he contacted Julie Riggert directly who came to the Cedar Falls Police Station for an interview. Sergeant Conlee testified that Ms. Riggert was advised of her Constitutional rights and waived them. She then detailed her sexual relationship with [REDACTED] which occurred over many years. Ms. Riggert's only defense to this was that she believed since the actions of [REDACTED] were consensual that nothing was wrong.

9. Sergeant Conlee stated that because the statute of limitations had passed, he felt there was no basis to formally file a criminal charge. He did state, however that the manner in which these facts of some time ago became clear, was all too typical. Sergeant Conlee specifically stated, "Sexual abuse is the most unreported crime in America today".

10. That the Board specifically finds and agrees with statements made by Ms. Riggert in her Answer that the relationship between herself and a student had begun as proper attempts by a teacher to provide support and understanding to a student who needed her help.

11. However, there is no justification which was presented nor one which could be presented in any way justifying the exploitive actions taken by this certificated teacher with a minor child placed in her care. The Board finds that an improper relationship did exist, that the minor student was seriously harmed and that the high standards of the teaching profession were not only violated, but unfortunately totally disregarded.

12. That the Board finds that professional criteria are implicated in multiple particulars but specifically that an improper relationship existed between teacher and student.

13. The Board further finds that the only appropriate sanction under the facts as presented before them is revocation of the teaching certificate with no possibility of reinstatement. The Board feels that the actions of the Respondent were reprehensible, inexcusable and caused great harm. The Board can only hope that the active intervention of therapy and the passage of time can heal the obvious wounds that a long history of exploitation has caused to the Complainant.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Board concludes that it has jurisdiction of the subject matter.
2. The Board concludes after service of the Notice of Hearing was made on Respondent and upon receipt of an Answer filed by her before this Board, that it has personal jurisdiction of Respondent.
3. The Board further concludes as a matter of law that the criteria of its practices rule 282-12.2(260) which prohibits sexual involvement with a minor student was violated and that the appropriate sanction herein is revocation with no possibility of reinstatement.

DECREE

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the teaching certificate of Respondent, Julie Ann Riggert, certificate number 203765, is hereby permanently revoked with no possibility of reissuance or reinstatement.

Dated this 9 day of November, 1990

  
CALVIN HALLIBURTON Chairperson