

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**July 14, 2016**

**ORDER TO SUSPEND EDUCATOR'S LICENSE DUE TO NON-PAYMENT OF FINE**  
**IN RE PENNY LOUISE ODEN, PLSB CASE NO. 14-074**

At its regular meeting on July 14, 2016, the Arkansas State Board of Education ("Board") considered the matter of Penny Louise Oden ("Educator Oden") concerning the non-payment of a fine assessed by Board. Based upon the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

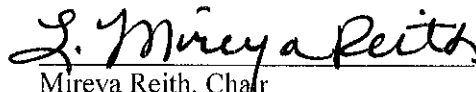
**I. Findings of Fact:**

- a. On June 6, 2014, the Professional Licensure Standards Board ("PLSB")-Ethics Subcommittee ("Ethics Subcommittee") unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Oden violated Standard 7 of the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators. Additionally, the Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the Board:
  - i. Suspend Educator Oden's license until December 31, 2017;
  - ii. Assess a one-hundred dollar (\$100) fine; and
  - iii. Require Educator Oden to submit a letter from a licensed counselor stating that she is fit to return to the classroom.
- b. On September 11, 2014, the Board entered its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Order") in which it adopted the Ethics Subcommittee's findings and recommended sanctions.
- c. In its Order, the Board directed Educator Oden to pay the assessed one-hundred dollar (\$100) fine within thirty (30) days.
- d. On September 17, 2014, the PLSB office mailed Educator Oden the Board's Order via certified and regular mail; this correspondence was received by Educator Oden on September 22, 2014.
- e. On March 2016, the PLSB office mailed Educator Oden a second request for payment of the fine assessed by the Board; this correspondence was received by Educator Oden on April 8, 2016.
- f. To date, Educator Oden has not responded to the PLSB's collection attempts and has not submitted payment of the assessed fine.

## II. Conclusions of Law

- a. Upon consideration of the evidence presented at the meeting and pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-401, 6-17-422, 6-17-428 and 25-15-201 et seq., and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, the Board unanimously voted to suspend Educator Oden's license until payment of the assessed one-hundred dollar (\$100) fine is received by the Arkansas Department of Education's PLSB office.
- b. Furthermore, Educator Oden's license shall be reflected as suspended on the Arkansas Department of Education's public website for licensure until payment of the assessed one-hundred dollar (\$100) fine is received by the Arkansas Department of Education's PLSB office.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

  
Mireya Reith, Chair  
Arkansas State Board of Education