



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction

Jill K. Underly, PhD, State Superintendent

April 29, 2022

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL ONLY

Marissa Darlingh
[REDACTED]

RE: In the matter of the license of Marissa Darlingh
DPI Case No. 22-TL-047

Dear Ms. Darlingh:

The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has opened an investigation to determine whether to initiate educator license revocation proceedings against you. It has been alleged that you engaged in immoral conduct as defined in Wis. Stat. § 115.31(1)(c).

Allegations:

According to a report and video submitted by a community member, you participated in an event in Madison on April 23, 2022 in which you identify yourself as an elementary school counselor. You are on video saying "fuck transgenderism." You are also on video stating you oppose gender identity ideology from entering your school building. You say none of your students will ever transition socially or medically under your "fucking watch." You state you do not believe children should have access to hormones or surgery.

Investigation and Decision:

The Department will investigate to determine if there is probable cause to support allegations of immoral conduct. If DPI determines that there is probable cause to proceed with revocation of your license(s), you will receive a notice including DPI's decision, the facts supporting the decision, and your right to request a hearing to contest the allegations. Alternatively, if DPI does not find probable cause to pursue revocation, you will be notified accordingly, DPI will close the investigation, and no revocation action will be initiated.

During the course of the investigation, DPI will maintain as confidential all files, communications, and other information pertaining to the investigation. Wis. Stat. § 115.31(6)(b); Wis. Admin. Code § PI 34.100(1)(c). During the course of the investigation, these files are not public records subject to inspection under the public records law, Wis. Stat. §§ 19.35 and 19.85.

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EXHIBIT

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Opportunity to Respond:

Before DPI makes its decision about whether to initiate license revocation proceedings, you have the right to respond to the allegation and to provide any information that may be relevant to the investigation. You may submit a written response or other documentation you wish DPI to consider directly to me, either via postal mail or email. If you prefer, you may also call me to give a verbal statement.

Your response must be received by 30 days from the date of the letter, in order to assure DPI has the opportunity to fully review it prior to making its final decision on whether to proceed with license revocation.

Also, please be aware that at any point during the investigation, you have the option to voluntarily surrender your license and bring the DPI's investigation of this matter to a close. If you do want to surrender your license, please carefully review the attached surrender agreement and if you agree, please sign the agreement and return it to me in the envelope included.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Arnott

Stephanie Arnott
Educator Licensing and Legal Investigator
Office of Legal Services

Department of Public Instruction
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STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

IN THE MATTER OF
THE EDUCATOR LICENSE OF

Marissa Darlingh No. 870025
RESPONDENT.

Agreement to Surrender License

DPI Case No. 22-TL-047

Respondent Marissa Darlingh and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) agree to the following:

1. This agreement is effective on the date it is signed on behalf of the DPI.
2. Respondent is a licensed educator in the State of Wisconsin.
3. Respondent agrees to surrender all licenses and permits issued by the DPI to Respondent.
4. Respondent may not apply for or seek reinstatement of a license or permit issued by the DPI. If Respondent applies for or seeks reinstatement of a license or permit issued by the DPI, the DPI may use this agreement as the sole basis to deny the application or reinstatement. Respondent expressly waives all appeal or other rights Respondent may have, including those under Wis. Stat. ch. 227 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PI 34, to challenge such a denial.
5. The DPI shall, as soon as practicable, close its investigation of Respondent.
6. The DPI shall, as soon as practicable, update Respondent's status on the Wisconsin Educator License Lookup website and the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification Clearinghouse database to reflect that Respondent surrendered the license.
7. This agreement resulted from negotiations between the parties. The parties had equal opportunity to review, revise, and negotiate the terms of this agreement. The parties acknowledge that they have read this agreement and have had the opportunity to consult with their respective attorneys concerning its contents and legal consequences. The parties further acknowledge they have entered into this agreement knowingly and voluntarily, fully understanding its terms.
8. This agreement is the entire, final, and complete agreement of the parties relating to the subject of this agreement, and supersedes and replaces all prior or existing written and oral agreements between the parties or their representatives relating thereto. No

amendment or modification of this agreement shall be effective unless in a writing executed by all parties whose interests are affected by the modification.

9. In the event a court of competent jurisdiction determines that any portion of this agreement is impermissible or cannot be enforced for any reason, the parties shall be restored to the rights they had on the date immediately preceding the effective date of this agreement.

Marissa Darlingh, Respondent

Date

John W. Johnson, Ph.D.
Deputy State Superintendent
Department of Public Instruction

Date