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Disciplinary Actions Taken Against Texas Educators

Teaching is a challenging job and one of the most important in our society. Texas educators shape the character and caliber of our children. As an educator, you work long hours to give Texas children the tools they'll need to lead happy and productive lives. If you're facing a complaint that puts your teaching credential in jeopardy, your reputation and the career you worked so hard for are in jeopardy.

Even if you believe the complaint to be baseless, you need to take quick action to defend your teaching credentials. Our experienced [professional license defense attorneys](#) will [defend your Texas teaching license](#) and your good name.

Regulatory Agencies for Texas Educators

Credentialed educators in Texas are regulated by the [State Board for Educator Certification](#) (SBEC) and the [Texas Education Agency](#) (TEA).

The SBEC Board oversees the preparation, certification, and standards of conduct of public school educators. Its [mission](#) is "to ensure the highest level of educator

preparation to promote student achievement and to ensure the safety and welfare of Texas school children."

In regard to educator disciplinary matters, the primary purpose of the SBEC is to:

1. protect the safety and welfare of Texas schoolchildren and school personnel;
2. ensure educators and applicants are morally fit and worthy to instruct or supervise the youth of the state; and
3. fairly and efficiently resolve educator disciplinary proceedings. [19 Tex Admin. Code §249.5](#).

The TEA is the state agency that oversees primary and secondary public education in Texas. Its [mission](#) is "to provide leadership, guidance and resources to help schools meet the educational needs of all students." The TEA enforces the Educator's Code of Ethics.

SBEC Disciplinary Actions

The SBEC may take the following [disciplinary actions](#) against an educator's certification:

- Place restrictions on the issuance, renewal, or holding of a certificate, either indefinitely or for a set term;
- Issue an inscribed or non-inscribed reprimand;
- Suspend a certificate for a set term or issue a probated suspension for a set term;
- Revoke or cancel, which includes accepting the surrender of, a certificate without opportunity for reapplication for a set term or permanently; or
- Impose any additional conditions or restrictions upon a certificate as deemed necessary by the SBEC.

As of fiscal year 2015-2016, the SBEC publishes quarterly [Disciplinary Action Reports](#), which include all final SBEC actions. From September 1, 2016 to May 31, 2017 (Fiscal Year 2016-2017), 197 educators were suspended, 131 had their credentials revoked, 160 voluntarily surrendered their credentials, and 107 were otherwise reprimanded.

The SBEC may take disciplinary action against an educator for a number of reasons, including: school or educational activities in violation of law, Code of Ethics violations, failure to report or hindering the reporting of child abuse or the known criminal history of an educator as required by law and Board rules, conviction of a crime directly related to the duties and responsibilities of the education profession, or even failure to cooperate with a Board investigation. The foregoing is by no means an exhaustive list. The SBEC may take disciplinary action against an educator for other misconduct.

TEA Disciplinary Actions

The TEA has a department that conducts investigations against Texas educators. The TEA's [Educator Investigations](#) "is responsible for ensuring that Texas educators meet the highest standards of professionalism and ethical behavior. Staff reviews criminal histories and reports of misconduct to determine if a sanction should be placed on an educator's credentials[.]"

After the TEA receives and reviews a complaint against an educator, it will determine whether the complaint contains enough information to decide whether there is a violation of school law and if the allegation may be true. If the TEA authorizes an investigation, it will send a written notice to the district superintendent and complainant. The notice provides parties an opportunity to submit more information. It is critical to have a professional license defense attorney by your side even in the early stages of the investigation.

Disciplinary Actions Taken Against Texas Educators

The State Board for Educator Certification and the Texas Education Agency may take disciplinary action against a Texas educator for misconduct. During the course of any investigation you have a right to fair and due process. You have the right to independent counsel at all stages of the complaint process and at any legal proceeding. Prior to accepting a final disposition of any regulatory body, you have the right to an administrative hearing before the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).

Whether the complaint against you is meritless or has extenuating circumstances, you need an experienced professional license defense attorney to protect your rights, protect your teaching credential, and to protect your career.

[BERTOLINO LLP](#) has been defending Texas educators for years, and we use a creative, results-driven approach to help you get the best possible outcome in your case. [Our results](#) speak for themselves. If you are facing allegations of professional misconduct or disciplinary action from the Texas Education Agency or SBEC, [contact us](#) today or call (800) 210-0126 and schedule a case evaluation.

Our law firm helps professionals, like you, keep their licenses when those licenses are under attack by a state agency or board.

[BERTOLINO LLP](#) proudly represents licensed professionals across the entire State of Texas. To best serve our clients we have offices in Austin, Houston, and San Antonio. Our honest, experienced attorneys will fight aggressively on behalf of your license and reputation. [Contact us](#) today or call (800) 210-0126 and schedule a case evaluation.

Get a copy of Tony R. Bertolino's #1 Bestselling book, [When Your License is Under Attack: A Survival Guide for Texas Professionals](#) in hardcover or for Kindle [here](#).

Hallmark Achievements | November 2017

IMO T.J.

Real Estate Sales Agent License Secured Despite Extensive Criminal History

Real Estate Sales Agent License Secured Despite Extensive Criminal History
Our Client ("T.J.") filed an application for a real estate sales agent license with the Texas Real Estate Commission ("TREC") before retaining the Firm for assistance. T.J.'s criminal history started at age sixteen (16), and entails several charges which TREC alleged to cast doubt on T.J.'s moral character and fitness to serve as a

fiduciary. T.J. has rehabilitated, both by personal choice and legal compulsion, and has not committed an offense in more than five (5) years. And we satisfactorily convinced TREC of as much, by zealously asserting that position, and embarking an aggressive campaign to comply with TREC's myriad demands for documents and explanation. We have facilitated T.J.'s rehabilitation, by assisting in securing gainful employment, which T.J. now intends to build a life around.

Bertolino Team Highlights



Please join us in welcoming the newest member of our team family, Cru Francisco De La Teja. Mother and baby are healthy and happy.

Congratulations London & Eddie!

"Our law firm helps professionals, like you, keep their licenses when those licenses are under attack by a state agency or board."

-Tony R. Bertolino, Managing Partner

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