

The following narrative is an explanation for the application security question regarding any past sanctions or investigations of a teaching certificate in which I responded “Yes”.

The incident in question occurred nine years ago in April 2013 during the first four years of my teaching career. An investigation was opened in July 2013 due to complaints by a parent and the elementary school in Henry County School District where I was teaching at the time. The allegations were false, which included throwing a chair and using profanity (which I was told could not be confirmed) and derogatory remarks; however, my side of the story was not given much validity, despite that many of the other students in my class, and neighboring teachers, also corroborated my side once questioned by administration. What I was being accused of was completely out of my character. Based on the final notice I received from the PSC, which stated: *“The grounds for disciplinary action by the Commission include Standard 2 (Conduct with Students) and Standard 10 (Professional Conduct). See Rule 505-6-.01, Rules of the Professional Standards Commission. The Commission conducted an investigation regarding an allegation that you violated the law, Georgia Department of Education Rules, and/or the Code of Ethics by the following action(s): ▪ Inappropriate conduct towards students. On December 12, 2013, the Commission found probable cause to recommend that the sanction of **a one (1) year suspension** is appropriate.”*

Ultimately, it was all an error in judgement on my part in classroom management. I felt as if I was being singled-out for simply doing my job of managing disruptive students. Instead of attempting to fight what I felt would be a never-ending battle, I decided it best to request a release of my contract. Regardless of the fact that I provided an honest statement of the situation to administration and the GaPSC, the Commission suspended my certificate for one year, as referenced above, – April 2013-April 2014.

Despite the suspension, my certificate is now, and has been since the lifting of the suspension, in good standing with the PSC. I have been teaching in a classroom since the lifting and renewal of my certificate. The incident definitely strengthened me both personally and professionally and provided me with many opportunities to improve in my classroom. It has not affected my classroom teaching abilities or effectiveness.

Since that one isolated incident, there have been no other complaints, no investigations, no concerns about my conduct, or any such negative situations to occur. I have also received all positive annual evaluations from administrators.

I verify the above information is valid and true to the best of my knowledge.
Mr. Jordan Souther