



Tison Law Group
HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND EXCELLENCE

February Newsletter | 813-739-1776 | www.tisonlawgroup.com

Legal Help for Teachers with Professional Licensing Issues

Teachers dealing with professional licensing issues do not need to handle these challenging situations alone. There is legal help available for educators facing disciplinary or licensing proceedings.

When you are held to a high professional standard in the classroom, even a momentary lapse could lead to consequences. An insignificant event might generate a challenge to your license or disciplinary action. It is often difficult to anticipate this before it happens, but you do have legal options to defend yourself. Tison Law Group has experience defending licensed Florida teachers against disciplinary actions.



Stages of a Licensing or Disciplinary Proceeding

Teachers can expect a few main stages in a licensing or disciplinary proceeding. First, the proceeding may happen before the local school board or the Florida Department of Education. You may not learn of a complaint until you receive a letter from the

Department of Education (DOE). At that point, the DOE may have opened a full investigation. The DOE conducts its [investigation](#) by interviewing witnesses and obtaining records. Keep in mind that you have a right not to be interviewed because you are a licensed teacher being investigated. We strongly recommend that you not provide an interview to a DOE investigator without an attorney present. We further recommend that you hire an attorney to respond to any correspondence from the DOE. When the investigation ends, lawyers at the Department of Education will review the investigation report. They recommend whether to close the investigation or file an administrative complaint. A panel then reviews the recommendation for probable cause. If probable cause is found, the complaint is referred to a prosecutor.

At this point, we may advise you that we need to request a formal hearing. You will have the opportunity to respond to the allegations against you. We can assist in preparing that response. We will work on building your case during this period, by doing our own investigation and requests for documents. If the case does not settle, we will pursue your best defenses at an administrative hearing. Once the judge makes a ruling on your case, we can help you submit any exceptions to the ruling and have them considered by the Education Practices Commission (EPC).

Why to Hire A Lawyer for Licensing and Disciplinary Actions

There are many reasons why you should hire a lawyer if you face a disciplinary or license challenge. First, the process that the Department of Education follows in pursuing a complaint is complicated. It can be a lengthy and confusing process if you are not familiar with the laws that [apply](#). You need to understand your rights by getting legal advice from an experienced attorney.

Second, you may receive requests for information or a request for an interview during this process. How you respond to these requests can have a big impact on your case. You may have the right to decline to respond or be interviewed. We can help you evaluate the requests and determine the best responses from a legal standpoint.

Finally, our firm conducts its own investigation of your case as it proceeds. You cannot count on the school board or Department of Education to conduct a fair, thorough investigation. Interviews and document requests could be focused on gathering evidence against you. From our perspective, we can seek evidence in our independent investigation that may help your case. We do our best to achieve closure of licensing and disciplinary actions, reduce the charges, or lessen the counts in the complaint.

If you are not sure whether you need a lawyer, consider what could happen if the administrative hearing does not go your way. You could face discipline, firing, loss of your teaching license, and even criminal charges against you. Do you want to risk any of that when you could have hired an attorney? Here at Tison Law Group, we can handle your disciplinary or licensing matter from start to finish. You will receive knowledgeable advice from lawyers who routinely help Florida teachers fight to stay in the classroom.

When you need an experienced and knowledgeable Florida licensing or disciplinary lawyer, call Tison Law Group. Tison Law Group's lawyers can handle your case from

start to finish. Our lawyers provide free consultations to teachers and other licensed professionals in Florida. Contact us today by calling (813) 739-1776 or filling out the [contact form](#) on our [website](#).

Tison Law Group was founded in 1998 by Tampa native William "Ty" W. Tison. Our firm is founded on the commitment to achieving excellent results while providing the utmost in personal service. Our attorneys and staff are committed to serving clients and the legal profession with honesty and integrity.

[Click Here to Visit Us Online](#)

Tison's Tip

"If any school administrator, school district representative, DOE investigator, law enforcement officer, child protection investigator or any other person is asking you to provide a statement to them regarding your having placed your hands on or otherwise having had any physical contact with a student, please remember to insist on having an attorney present BEFORE answering ANY questions. Doing so might save your job, your certification to teach, your career and possibly even your freedom!"

Employee Spotlight

Anthony R. Duran was raised in Tampa, Florida and graduated from Jesuit High School. He subsequently earned a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Tampa and his law degree from the University of Florida, where he graduated with honors. Mr. Duran began his legal career in earnest as an Assistant Public Defender in Tampa, Florida. He then served as Assistant State Attorney in Tampa where he spent three years as a Lead Trial Attorney in the sex offense/child abuse division. After leaving the State Attorneys office, Mr. Duran worked for Ogden & Sullivan handling insurance defense and trucking litigation. He now works



for Tison Law Group concentrating in the areas of administrative law, criminal defense, education law and personal injury.

Learn More

813-739-1776 | www.tisonlawgroup.com

Copyright © 2018 Tison Law Group, All rights reserved.