

*Maggie Pazar*  
 I, *Maggie Pazar* certify that on *July 7, 2004* I mailed a *resent to different address supplied by Ms. Ellingsworth* copy of this document, certified & postage prepaid, to all parties or their counsel of record. I certify under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the state of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct. *1410 Sanford Richland, WA 99352*

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION )  
 CERTIFICATE OF )  
 )  
 AUDRA ELLINGSWORTH )  
 DOB: [REDACTED]/1974 )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

OPP No. A02-07-0372  
 FINAL ORDER OF  
 DENIAL OF CERTIFICATE

COMES NOW Arlene Hett, the Informal Review Officer of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), having reviewed the files of the above-referenced case, and having considered the arguments of each party and the recommendation of the Admissions and Professional Conduct Advisory Committee, does hereby deny the certificate application of Audra Ellingsworth, based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Audra Ellingsworth was a student at Washington State University (WSU) enrolled in the education program. On February 15, 2000, Ms. Ellingsworth applied to be cleared by the Office of Professional Practices (OPP) for certification. Ms. Ellingsworth was cleared by OPP on July 7, 2000. Ms. Ellingsworth's clearance expired prior to her becoming certificated. Ms. Ellingsworth reapplied to be cleared through OPP on June 10, 2002.
2. On the Character and Fitness Supplement (C&FS), a part of the application process, Audra Ellingsworth answered "yes" to questions 1 and 2 of Section II (Criminal History). Ms. Ellingsworth included a written statement with her C&FS in which she indicated that in July, 2000, her stepson accused her of strangling him.
3. Audra Ellingsworth was investigated by Child Protective Services (CPS). CPS provided documentation indicating Ms. Ellingsworth was referred to their agency for physical abuse a total of 18 times between 1997 and 2000. Two of the 18 referrals were deemed founded.
  - a. On August 20, 1999, a YMCA Camp Counselor referred Audra Ellingsworth to CPS for physical abuse of her stepdaughter. The case was deemed founded by CPS. No further action was taken.

- b. On July 11, 2000, Audra Ellingsworth was referred to CPS by her stepson's therapist due to an allegation of physical abuse made to the therapist by her stepson. The case was deemed founded by CPS and referred to the West Richland Police Department.
4. On September 27, 2000, Ms. Ellingsworth was charged with Assault of a Child in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree for the assault of her 9-year-old stepson in July, 2000. The Superior Court of Benton County, Washington, issued Ms. Ellingsworth an Order of Continuance. The court ordered Ms. Ellingsworth to an evaluation and completion of any anger management treatment as ordered. The charge was dismissed on August 3, 2001, based upon the completion of conditions in the order of continuance.
  5. On the C&FS dated April 2, 2002, Ms. Ellingsworth answered "no" to question 11 of section IV (Fitness). Question 11 reads: "Have you ever been found in any dependency or domestic relation matter to have physically abused any person?" Audra Ellingsworth falsified the C&FS, a part of the application process for certification. Refer to Finding of Fact 3a and 3b.
  6. On the initial C&FS dated February 15, 2000, in which Ms. Ellingsworth was originally cleared by OPP, she also answered "no" to question 11 of section IV (Fitness). After a review of the documents provided by CPS, it was found that Ms. Ellingsworth falsified her original application for certification. Refer to Finding of Fact 3a.
  7. Good moral character and personal fitness is a requirement to attain a Washington education certificate.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Audra Ellingsworth and over the subject matter of this action.
2. Audra Ellingsworth has failed to provide clear and convincing evidence of good moral character or personal fitness to receive a Washington Education Certificate, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 180-86-170.

### ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the application for certification of Audra Ellingsworth be denied.

This Order may be appealed within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of receipt, pursuant to Chapter 180-86 WAC, copy enclosed. Please direct the appeal and request for formal hearing to Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Administrative Law Office, Old Capitol Building, P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200.

DATED this 16th day of June, 2004.

DR. TERRY BERGESON  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

  
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DR. ARLENE HETT  
Informal Review Officer