



# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DR. TERRY BERGESON

OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • PO BOX 47200 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-7200

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION	)	
	)	
v.	)	FINAL ORDER
	)	OF REVOCATION
	)	
ROBERT CHARLES CUFFEL, JR.	)	OPP No. D92-12-106
Certificate No. 184360F	)	
_____	)	

Thirty calendar days have transpired since the mailing to you of a Proposed Order of Revocation. Your failure to make a timely appeal of such order authorizes this agency to issue a Final Order of Revocation based on the Finding(s) of Fact and Conclusion(s) of Law set forth in the Proposed Order of Revocation. The following is hereby entered:

### Findings of Fact

1. Robert Charles Cuffel, Jr. received his Washington State Standard Elementary & Secondary Teacher Certificate #184360F on September 13, 1974. That certificate currently remains valid.
2. Robert Charles Cuffel, Jr. was employed by Highline School District until a notice of probable cause was issued on December 11, 1992. On July 28, 1995, the Honorable Larry A. Jordan delivered his oral decision, upholding Mr. Cuffel's discharge.

ROBERT CHARLES CUFFEL, JR.  
FINAL ORDER OF REVOCATION -1-



3. On October 16, 1992, the Superintendent of Highline School District, in accordance with WAC 180-86-110, did file a letter with the the Office of Professional Practices (Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction), alleging a violation of WAC 180-87.

4. Robert Charles Cuffel, Jr. was discharged by Highline School District for an inappropriate, sexual relationship with a female student.

5. Maintaining good moral character and personal fitness is a continuing requirement to continue holding a Washington educational certificate.

#### Conclusions of Law

1. Robert Charles Cuffel, Jr. has violated RCW 28A.410.090 which states:

**RCW 28A.410.090 Revocation or suspension of certificate or permit to teach...** (1) Any certificate or permit authorized under the provisions of this chapter, chapter 28.A.405 RCW, or rules and regulations promulgated thereunder may be revoked or suspended by the authority authorized to grant the same upon complaint of any school district superintendent or educational service district superintendent for immorality, violation of written contract, unprofessional conduct, intemperance, or crime against the law of the state.

He engaged in a sexual relationship with a female student.

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2. Robert Charles Cuffel, Jr. has exhibited behavior which is contrary to that which is expected of a professional educator. Good moral character and personal fitness is a requirement to hold an educational certificate.

This requirement is outlined in WAC 180-75-081 as follows:

**Good moral character and personal fitness--Definition.** As used in this chapter, the terms "good moral character and personal fitness" means character and personal fitness necessary to serve as a certificated employee in schools in the state of Washington, including character and personal fitness to have contact with, to teach, and to perform supervision of children. Good moral character and personal fitness includes, but is not limited to, the following:

...

(3) No behavioral problem which endangers the educational welfare or personal safety of students, teachers, or other colleagues within the educational setting.

Robert Charles Cuffel, Jr. has exhibited behavior which endangered the emotional welfare of his female student. He did not maintain the boundary of appropriate supervision and instruction of a student.

3. Good moral character and personal fitness is a continuing requirement for maintaining an educational certificate, as outlined in WAC 180-75-083:

**Good moral character and personal fitness--Continuing requirement.** The good moral character and personal fitness requirement of applicants for certification under the laws of the state of Washington is a continuing requirement for holding a professional educational certificate under regulations of the state board of education.


Based on the above Finding(s) of Fact, the Superintendent of Public Instruction has determined Robert Charles Cuffel, Jr. lacks the good moral character and personal fitness required by WAC 180-75-081 to serve as a certificated employee in the schools of this state.

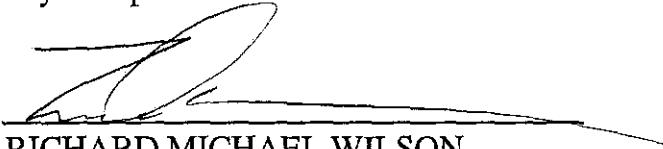
**Ordered**

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate No. 184360F for Robert Charles Cuffel, Jr. is revoked.

DATED This 28 day of April, 1997.

DR. TERRY BERGESON  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

  
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J. J. COOLICAN  
Deputy Superintendent

By:   
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DR. RICHARD MICHAEL WILSON  
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WSBA #11212