

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
APPEAL OF

SHAWN WRIGHT  
(Certificate No. 234827D)

FINDINGS OF FACT,  
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW,  
AND FINAL ORDER

This matter came before the Washington State Board of Education on March 30, 2001, for oral argument pursuant to the appeal of Mr. Shawn Wright from the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Final Order of the Superintendent of Public Instruction issued May 5, 2000, by and through Senior Administrative Law Judge David G. Hansen, Office of Administrative Hearings.

Mr. Wright was represented by Stanley A. Kempner, Jr., Attorney at Law. The Superintendent of Public Instruction was represented by Anne O. Shaw, Assistant Attorney General. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Terry Bergeson, did not participate in the consideration of this appeal.

The administrative record before the State Board for review and consideration included: Volumes I., II., III., and IV. (pages 1 through 562) of the transcript of the January 11 through 14, 2000 proceedings before Senior Administrative Law Judge David G. Hansen; Appellant Wright's Exhibits numbered 1 through 6; Superintendent of Public Instruction's Exhibits numbered 1 through 40; and, various letters, pleadings, and orders of record including the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Final Order dated and issued on May 5, 2000.

Having heard and read the oral and written argument of counsel, and having read the administrative record as described immediately above, the State Board of Education hereby adopts and enters the following Final Order:

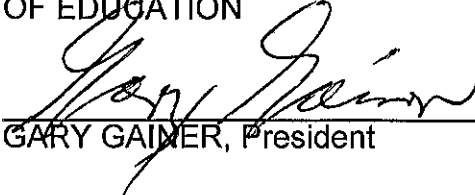
**FINAL ORDER**

1. The Findings of Fact (I. through XVII.), Conclusions of Law (I. through IV.), and Final Order of Senior Administrative Law Judge David G. Hansen dated May 5, 2000, is attached and incorporated into this Final Order by this reference, and hereby adopted and affirmed in every respect.

2. Accordingly, the teaching certificate of Mr. Shawn Wright, Certificate No. 234827D, was properly revoked pursuant to RCW 28A.410.090, and remains revoked.

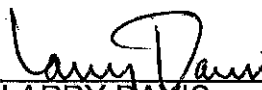
DATED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH, 2001.

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD  
OF EDUCATION

  
GARY GAINER, President

**ATTESTATION**

I, Larry Davis, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, certify that on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH, 2001, the State Board of Education adopted the above order by the vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 3 not present.

  
LARRY DAVIS  
Executive Director

**NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS**

This order is a final order for purposes of petitioning for judicial review. Pursuant to RCW 34.05.542, a petition for judicial review may be filed within 30 days after service of this Final Order. Any party wishing to seek judicial review should carefully read the requirements for seeking judicial review in the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

Pursuant to RCW 34.05.470, any party to this action may file a petition for reconsideration. The petition must state the specific grounds upon which the request for reconsideration is based and must be filed with the State Board of Education, P.O. Box 47206, Olympia, WA 98504-7206, within 10 days of the service of this final order. It is not necessary to file a petition for reconsideration prior to seeking judicial review. See RCW 34.05.470.

"Service" of the order on the parties is complete upon posting in the United States mail. RCW 34.05.010(19). "Service" for purposes other than issuing the order, including initiating judicial review may be defined differently.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This certifies that a copy of this Final Order was mailed to the representatives of the parties at the addresses listed below on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2001, by depositing same in the United States mail, postage prepaid.

Stanley A. Kempner, Jr.  
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Anne O. Shaw  
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**RECEIVED**  
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**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**  
**FOR THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
EDUCATION CERTIFICATE OF

SHAWN WRIGHT  
(Certificate No. 234827D)

TEACHER CERTIFICATION  
CAUSE NO. 99-04

**FINDINGS OF FACT,  
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW  
AND FINAL ORDER**

Pursuant to due and proper notice, a hearing in the above-entitled matter was conducted before Senior Administrative Law Judge David G. Hansen in Spokane, Washington on January 11 through January 14, 2000. Shawn Wright, Appellant herein, appeared and was represented by Stanley A. Kempner, Jr., Attorney at Law. The Superintendent of Public Instruction, SPI herein, appeared and was represented by Anne O. Shaw, Assistant Attorney General. Having sworn the witnesses, heard the testimony and considered the admitted exhibits, briefs and arguments of the parties, the Administrative Law Judge hereby enters the following:

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

On February 21, 1995, Judith A. Billings, Superintendent of Public Instruction, issued a proposed order of revocation holding that Appellant lacked the "good moral character and personal fitness required by WAC 180-175-081 to serve as a certificated employee in the schools . . ." of the State of Washington, and proposed the revocation of Appellant's education certificate. *Exhibit 6*. Appellant and SPI entered an Agreement Not to Continue or Accept Education Employment on March 8, 1995, pending Appellant's appeal of a January 2, 1995 hearing officer decision finding sufficient cause for Appellant's discharge from the Mead School District. *Exhibit 4*. After Appellant had exhausted his appeal rights, the Office of Professional Practices of SPI filed an Office of Professional Practices' Submission to the Review Officer and Admissions and Professional Conduct Advisory Committee supporting a decision to revoke Appellant's education certificate. *Exhibit "G"*. The Office of Professional Practices found sufficient cause to revoke Appellant's education certification, a finding from which Appellant promptly appealed. An informal review hearing took place on December 9, 1998, which Appellant challenged for lack of sufficient notice. The undersigned Administrative Law Judge found that sufficient notice had not been provided and remanded the matter to SPI for another informal review hearing. That

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS  
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hearing took place on June 24, 1999, after which a Proposed Final Order was issued on July 19, 1999, ordering the revocation of Appellant's education certificate. *Exhibit 7.* Appellant timely appealed.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

#### I.

Appellant, whose date of birth is [REDACTED], 1956, holds a Washington State Education Certificate issued to him on June 8, 1979. He taught music at Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, Washington from 1982 through the 1986/87 academic school year. He subsequently taught at Mead Junior High in the Mead School District, north of Spokane, beginning with the 1989/90 academic school year through his being placed on administrative leave in September 1993.

#### II.

While at Lewis and Clark, Appellant was in charge of a number of choirs. Those choirs participated in competitions and tournaments throughout the Pacific Northwest. Traveling to those tournaments frequently involved long bus rides and overnight stays in hotels or motels. Practice for the choirs also involved after school and evening participation. [REDACTED] was a choir student of Appellant during her sophomore year at Lewis and Clark High School, 1983/84. She was sixteen years of age at the time. During a choir competition in Moscow, Idaho in early 1984, Appellant told Ms. [REDACTED] that he wanted to be in a dark, smokey room with her, drinking red wine and dancing closely with her. He went on to make comments about taking her into the "bushes" later that evening. He also informed her that he felt as though he was a schoolboy with his first crush.

#### III.

At some point later, in March 1984, Appellant invited Ms. [REDACTED] to assist him in setting up a sound system at Gonzaga Prep High School. She accepted, and after completing the set-up, accompanied Appellant, at his request, to a nearby restaurant. At that time Appellant told Ms. [REDACTED] that he had strong feelings for her, feelings that he had not had for anyone other than his wife.

#### IV.

In April 1984, Ms. [REDACTED] attended, along with other choir students, a school sponsored competition in the Tri-Cities. Saturday evening Appellant, who was twenty-eight years of age at the time, consumed alcohol in the presence of students, to the point of intoxication. He offered Ms. [REDACTED] an alcoholic drink, which she accepted. At one point during the

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evening Appellant, Ms. [REDACTED], and a third student, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], were the only ones in Appellant's motel room. Ms. [REDACTED] and Appellant believed that Ms. [REDACTED] had fallen asleep on the other bed. Appellant reminded Ms. [REDACTED] that she "owed" him a back rub, whereupon he removed his shirt. They then laid on the bed while they gave each other back rubs. At one point, while the two were beside each other on the bed, Appellant rested his arm on Ms. [REDACTED] chest. He then stated something to the effect of "on the count of three" whereupon he leaned over and kissed Ms. [REDACTED] on the lips. He commented on her kissing abilities, then kissed her again. Ms. [REDACTED] stopped the activity by telling Appellant that it was not right. Ms. [REDACTED] observed the incident, not having been asleep as Ms. [REDACTED] and Appellant had assumed.

#### V.

At the beginning of Ms. [REDACTED] junior year, in the fall of 1984, Appellant apologized to Ms. [REDACTED] for his conduct, stating that he did not want to have hard feelings between the two of them. It was also at this time that Ms. [REDACTED] began to feel that she was no longer the "teacher's pet" as she had been the year prior. She also observed that Appellant began focusing attention on another student, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], a sophomore at the time.

#### VI.

[REDACTED] attended Lewis and Clark High School beginning her freshman year, 1983/84, through graduation at the end of the 1986/87 school year. Ms. [REDACTED] had earlier become acquainted with Appellant, when she took piano lessons from Appellant's mother-in-law. Ms. [REDACTED] participated in the concert choir and jazz choir, and as such was a student of Appellant. During Ms. [REDACTED] sophomore year, 1984/85, a friendship between herself and Appellant began to develop. Ms. [REDACTED] was fifteen years of age at the time. On school sponsored trips they routinely sat together, often falling asleep and resting against one another. They frequently gave each other back rubs and hand rubs. During this same period, Appellant frequently talked to Ms. [REDACTED] about his wife and marital problems they were experiencing. Appellant told Ms. [REDACTED] that he had dreams about her, including drinking champagne in a hot tub and also eating crab at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. The two exchanged notes with one another frequently, using a code so as not to raise suspicions. Examples of this code can be found in entries made by Appellant in Ms. [REDACTED] 1985 yearbook. Exhibit 31. He wrote "L.L." referring to "Love and Lust." He also wrote a sexual innuendo, "P.F.D.", meaning "Pretty Far Down." He wrote "D.G.M.I.T." which meant "Don't get me in trouble." After referring, again by code, to a chaperone on a school-sponsored trip who had complained to school administrators about claimant's conduct with Appellant, Appellant made reference to "P.A.", referring to prohibited "Public Displays of Affection."

VII.

Ms. [REDACTED] became a frequent visitor to Appellant's home, babysitting Appellant's children. During such a visit in the spring of 1985, only the two of them were present. That evening Appellant offered Ms. [REDACTED] sips of an alcoholic drink. They laid on the floor in front of the fireplace giving each other back rubs. At one point he rolled her over on top of him and kissed her on the mouth. The following day at school Appellant apologized for what had happened the previous evening and informed Ms. [REDACTED] that it would not happen again. During the summer between Ms. [REDACTED] sophomore and junior year Appellant contacted Ms. [REDACTED] by telephone.

VIII.

During Ms. [REDACTED] junior year, 1985/86, she was sixteen years of age. She and Appellant frequently met privately, before school, at a 7-Eleven, a restaurant or a golf course. Appellant frequently made statements to Ms. [REDACTED] to the effect that he was married and had a family and could not be doing this, yet at the same time would advise Ms. [REDACTED] that he was very relaxed when in her presence. During her junior year, Appellant advised Ms. [REDACTED] on several occasions that he was in love with her and fantasized about what they would do together. He also stated something to the effect that he considered her "a woman." Appellant continued to advise Ms. [REDACTED] of the marital difficulties he was experiencing with his wife. He stated things to the effect that Ms. [REDACTED] cared about him and his ambitions, while his wife did not. The physical contact between the two increased, with more frequent kissing and fondling. One evening Appellant accompanied Ms. [REDACTED] to her residence. Her parents were not at home. They began kissing, whereupon Appellant told Ms. [REDACTED] she did not know how to kiss. He offered to teach her how to do so. During the course of the evening Appellant fondled Ms. [REDACTED] breast and vaginal area and she touched his penis. At one point during the evening Appellant performed oral sex on Ms. [REDACTED]. On another occasion during her junior year; Ms. [REDACTED] was at Appellant's home. They were the only two present. At some point in the evening, in a basement room, they engaged in kissing and heavy petting. Both had their pants off, whereupon Appellant and Ms. [REDACTED] briefly engaged in sexual intercourse. During the summer between Ms. [REDACTED] junior and senior year, Appellant and Ms. [REDACTED] were again alone at Appellant's home. On this occasion, they performed oral sex on each other, and had intercourse.

IX.

During Ms. [REDACTED] senior year, 1986/87, Ms. [REDACTED] was seventeen years of age. In November 1986 Ms. [REDACTED] was house sitting. Ms. [REDACTED] returned from an out-of-town school sponsored trip with Appellant early one morning. Appellant was thirty years old at the time. The two went to the residence she was house sitting where they engaged

in sexual intercourse. Later during her senior year the frequency of physical contact between the two decreased.

X.

The following are examples of notes exchanged between Appellant and Ms. [REDACTED]: Appellant wrote the following to Ms. [REDACTED], "I will love you forever and longer . . . you make me feel incredibly helpless . . . but oh so awesome . . . need I say more? Love, Bob." *Exhibit 24*. Bob was a code name for Appellant. A Christmas card contained the following from Appellant to Ms. [REDACTED], "Thanks for, oh so often . . . being my guardian angel, for all you do, a very merry Christmas to you and your family. Love, Me." *Exhibit 25*. At Christmas 1986, Appellant wrote the following in a card to Ms. [REDACTED]:

Dear [REDACTED],

With as much trouble as I've been having trying to figure out what to say to you at Christmas time '86, it finally became clear to me with the purchase of this gift.

For in this gift is all I can feel for you, that through all of life's hardships and joys, trials and tribulations, God is with you.

That I wish only the best things for you, in your school, in your career, and in your life, God is with you.

That I have been such a wonderful source of joy to you, and you to me, is a gift of love.

That love is carried with us always, it is, after all, why they call it Christmas. I don't think I can say it any better. [referring to the printed Christmas card]

May God's love be with you always, as is mine. Merry Christmas 1986.

*Exhibit 26*. In a birthday card to Ms. [REDACTED], Appellant wrote the following:

This card entitles you to an evening (+ dining) (preferably in Lewiston) on the day of your choice.

There is a lot of P.A. going around the faculty about an incident that occurred last year - so forgive my attitude of late but it's real P.A.

Things are still not resolved at home - but, oh well.

To the most charming, intelligent and truly talented and unique individual I know. You're very special. Love always . . .

*Exhibit 29.* It appears that in February 1986, (the date is not clear on the record) Appellant wrote a three-page letter to Ms. [REDACTED] containing, among other things, the following:

[You] have been a source of stability and ego building. . . . [You] have reassured my libido, my feelings of manly value/and have jeopardized a wonderful relationship, my job, your future, my kids future. . . .

I have definitely messed up your life and my own by holding onto a love that I thought might really be possible and I now see that actual futility and seriousness of the consequences abounding. . . .

I have a fantasy. I become a rich, famous performer and travel a lot with BIG \$, can fly anywhere, or fly you anywhere where we can dine, share, be together, no strings, etc. . . .

My love for you is immeasurable, such a love poets would be made dreamers, poets, and that is where it stands; as a poem, or a dream, neither very tangible, forgive me, as I have most assuredly reached the depths of my emotional immaturity.

*Exhibit 35.*

XI.

Appellant married his current wife in 1978. The two have two boys, currently ages fifteen and seventeen. Appellant's wife has suffered from poor health for numerous years, having juvenile diabetes, epilepsy, and severe allergies. Between 1978 and 1981, Appellant's wife suffered three miscarriages. Appellant observed the autopsy of one of the miscarriages. In 1982 Appellant's wife became pregnant for a fourth time. Physicians initially thought the child had died in the womb at approximately six months. This turned out not to be the case, and the child was born in good health. At this time Appellant began consuming excess amounts of alcohol to, as he states, "ease the pain." Appellant's second child was born in 1984, six and one-half weeks early and delivered by emergency Caesarean Section. Both the child and Appellant's wife had life-threatening conditions at the time. The child sustained a blood clot and developed cerebral palsy. Appellant's wife became malnourished as a result of a then undiagnosed allergic condition. At or about this time Appellant began drinking more heavily.

XII.

In July 1993 attorneys for Ms. [REDACTED] notified Spokane School District No. 81 of the sexual nature of the relationship between Ms. [REDACTED] and Appellant. By letter dated September 21, 1993, Spokane School District notified SPI of the allegations against Appellant. *Exhibit 1.* On September 28, 1993 Spokane School District informed Mead

School District No. 354, Appellant's then employer, of the complaint they had recently filed with SPI regarding Appellant's relationship with Ms. [REDACTED]. *Exhibit 8*. By letter dated September 29, 1993, Mead School District's superintendent, Dr. William Mester, placed Appellant on administrative leave from his duties with the district. *Exhibit 9*. On June 30, 1994 Dr. Mester terminated Appellant from his position with the district. *Exhibit 10*. Appellant appealed his discharged from the district. The probable cause hearing was held in December 1994. During depositions in preparation of the hearing, Appellant denied, under oath, any sexual contact with students. At the hearing, Appellant testified, again under oath, that he had no sexual or otherwise improper physical contact with Ms. [REDACTED] or Ms. [REDACTED]. He further denied providing alcohol to any students. Appellant now contends that he denied the allegations upon the advice of his legal counsel at the time. The testimonies of Ms. [REDACTED], Ms. [REDACTED], and Ms. [REDACTED] regarding Appellant's sexual contact with students and providing or permitting alcoholic beverages to be consumed by students were essentially the same at the probable cause hearing as they were at the present, teacher certification hearing. The hearing officer at the probable cause hearing concluded that there existed sufficient cause for Mead School District to terminate Appellant. *Exhibit 11*. Appellant appealed the hearing officer's decision to Spokane County Superior Court, which in turn affirmed the hearing officer's decision. *Exhibits 12 and 13*. The Court of Appeals, Division III, affirmed the Superior Court decision in July 1997. 87 Wn.App. 624 (1997). On March 4, 1998 the Supreme Court denied review of the Court of Appeals decision. 134 Wn.2d 1011 (1998).

### XIII.

Ms. [REDACTED] credibly testified at hearing that she was initially flattered by Appellant's attention. Her experience with Appellant made her "less trusting" with males in her life.

### XIV.

Ms. [REDACTED] came forward and reported Appellant's conduct to authorities in 1993. She did so out of a feeling that she would not be able to forgive herself should another school girl go through the same experience with Appellant as she had. Since leaving high school she has required counseling for depression. She developed a negative self esteem and a loss of trust for adults and authority. She experienced episodes of guilt and shame. She was particularly saddened over the loss of what she would have considered a "normal" high school experience. She further expressed distress over the embarrassment and humiliation created by the media coverage of her charges against Appellant when she came forward. Her family's photograph was on the front page of the local newspaper. Ms. [REDACTED] has since graduated from college with a Masters Degree in public health and social work.

XV.

At the teacher certification hearing, Appellant admitted publicly for the first time that he had engaged in inappropriate sexual conduct with Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED]. He attributes his conduct with Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] to the difficult personal situations he was experiencing at the time. Specifically, his wife's health, his children's health, the miscarriages, and his use of alcohol. Paul M. Wert, Ph.D., testified on behalf of Appellant. Dr. Wert is a certified sex offender counselor in the State of Washington. Dr. Wert saw Appellant in late 1993 and late 1994 in preparation for the probable cause hearing. At that time Appellant denied to Dr. Wert any sexual contact with students. In December 1999, Appellant was referred to Dr. Wert for a psychological and psychosexual assessment in preparation for the teacher certification hearing. At that time he admitted to Dr. Wert his relationship with Ms. [REDACTED] and his inappropriate contact with Ms. [REDACTED]. After this third visit, Dr. Wert concluded, among other things, that Appellant

presents as being sincerely remorseful over what occurred with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. . . . His remorse is clear and compelling. Shawn does not present as a predatory individual, and in all probability is capable at this point in time of handling duties associated with a teaching career in a reasonable and a prosocial fashion.

Appellant's Exhibit 4 at 6. Dr. Wert believed that Appellant's conduct with Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] was "situational," the result of Appellant's immaturity and infatuation with the two girls in an attempt to escape the difficult times he was experiencing in his personal life. Appellant denies he is alcoholic, and as of the hearing date, continues to use alcohol moderately.

XVI.

Thomas J. Hearn, certified sex offender treatment provider, testified at hearing. He characterized Appellant's admitted conduct, namely, increasing levels of touching, crossing boundaries, talking of secret fantasies, as an effort by Appellant to "groom" the two girls. His conduct amounted to an escalating and gradual desensitization of the two girls. Mr. Hearn offered that based upon Appellant's admitted conduct, he would consider Appellant a sexual offender. He would recommend sexual offender specific treatment.

XVII.

William A. Mester, Ph.D., Superintendent of the Mead School District, testified at hearing. He offered that Appellant's conduct in having sexual relations with students, providing them with alcohol, and allowing them to consume alcohol, broke a "sacred community trust" that

cannot be reestablished. Dr. Mester offered that Appellant's conduct was in clear disregard for the health and welfare of the students involved.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

#### I.

The Office of Administrative Hearings has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this proceeding. The hearing was conducted pursuant to the authority and jurisdiction vested in the Superintendent of Public Instruction pursuant to Chapter 28A.410 RCW, Chapter 34.05 RCW, Chapter 180-75 WAC, Chapter 180-86 WAC, and Chapter 10-08 WAC.

#### II.

Recognizing the gravity of a disciplinary proceeding, the burden of proof in this matter is defined at WAC 180-36-170(2) as follows:

In a suspension or revocation proceeding, the superintendent of public instruction must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the certificate holder is not of good moral character or personal fitness or has committed an act of unprofessional conduct.

This requires that the undersigned, as the trier of fact, be convinced that the ultimate facts in issue are shown by evidence to be "highly probable." See In re Pawling, 101 Wn.2d 392, 399, 679 P.2d 916 (1984). "Clear, cogent and convincing evidence is evidence which is weightier and more convincing than a preponderance of the evidence, but which need not reach the level of 'beyond a reasonable doubt'." In re Deming, 108 Wn.2d 82, 109, 736 P.2d 639 (1997).

#### III.

The certificate of a teacher in the State of Washington "may be revoked or suspended" by the Superintendent of Public Instruction "for immorality, violations of written contract, unprofessional conduct, intemperance, or a crime against the law of the state." RCW 28A.410.090(1). "Good moral character and personal fitness" is a continuing requirement of teachers in the State of Washington. WAC 180-75-083. "Good moral character and personal fitness" is defined at WAC 180-75-081 as meaning "character and personal fitness necessary to serve as a certificated employee in the schools in the state of Washington, including character and personal fitness to have contact with, to teach, and to perform supervision of children."

#### IV.

Having given due consideration to the foregoing, the undersigned concludes that SPI has established, by the requisite burden of proof, that Appellant engaged in acts of immorality and unprofessional conduct and that Appellant lacks the good moral character and personal fitness to serve as a certificated employee in the schools in the State of Washington. Appellant systematically, and over an extended period of time, engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct with young students under his control and direction. That conduct ranged from consumption of alcohol in their presence; providing alcohol to minor students; to sexual innuendos; inappropriate touching; to sexual intercourse. This conduct took place with two different young women, over a period of approximately four years. The conduct began with one of the students being merely fifteen years of age, at a time when Appellant was nearly twice the students' age. The incidents were neither isolated nor spontaneous. Appellant engaged in a pattern of conduct best characterized as "grooming" of these two vulnerable and susceptible young women. This is particularly true in the case of Ms. [REDACTED]. Appellant would engage in an inappropriate activity, only to retreat and apologize. This would be followed by an increasingly inappropriate act on his part, again followed by retreat. It is simply not persuasive to attribute this conduct to an individual trying to "escape" the difficult times in his life. The undersigned, having had an opportunity to hear and observe the testimonies of Ms [REDACTED] and Ms [REDACTED], found them to be two bright, caring, and sensitive individuals. They were clearly not the initiator of any sexual relationship with Appellant. The undersigned does not discount the difficult situations which Appellant and his family were dealing with at the time. Appellant's wife, children and family have suffered considerably. Appellant attributes his conduct in part to his abuse of alcohol. Yet Appellant continues to use alcohol, and with one minor exception, has sought no professional help in that regard. Furthermore, Appellant has sought no professional help in regard to his predatory behavior with these two young women. Appellant now asserts that he is truly sorry and remorseful for his actions during 1983 through 1987. Yet, when confronted with the allegations in 1993, Appellant denied any inappropriate conduct. He continued to do so throughout his appeal process until this hearing. The abuse to which he subjected these young women when they were his students was compounded by the ordeal through which he put them by denying the truth of their assertions. Appellant's belated statements of apology, remorse, and regret are therefore considered self serving at best. A special confidence is placed in those individuals who are entrusted with the education, care and supervision of children. Appellant repeatedly and systematically violated that trust. The nature and extent of Appellant's violation of that trust, together with his apparent continuing failure to accept responsibility for his conduct, makes loss of that trust and confidence irrevocable.

**ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED That the teaching certificate of Shawn Wright, Certificate No. 234827D, be and is revoked pursuant to RCW 28A.410.090. In accordance with WAC 180-86-150(3), this Order shall take effect the below specified date and no stay of revocation shall exist until Appellant files an appeal in a timely manner pursuant to WAC 180-86-155.

DATED at Spokane, Washington this 5th day of May, 2000.



David G. Hansen  
Senior Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings

DGH/vls

**NOTICE OF FURTHER APPEAL RIGHTS**

PURSUANT TO WAC 180-86-155, ANY PERSON WHOSE CERTIFICATE HAS BEEN REVOKED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION MAY APPEAL THAT DECISION TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION BY FILING A NOTICE OF APPEAL WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION OR THE SECRETARY OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION WITHIN THIRTY (30) CALENDAR DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS FINAL ORDER.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE:**

This certifies that a copy of this Order was mailed to the interested parties or his/her representative at the address listed below on the 5th day of May, 2000, by depositing same in the United States mail, postage prepaid:

Stanley A. Kempner, Jr.  
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FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS  
OF LAW AND FINAL ORDER

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cc: Mary Radcliffe, OAH  
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