



# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

RANDY I. DORN OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • PO BOX 47200 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-7200 • <http://www.k12.wa.us>

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION	)	
CERTIFICATE OF	)	OPP No. D08-06-045
	)	
Leslie (Bruce) Benedict	)	FINAL ORDER
Certificate No. 269611J	)	OF SUSPENSION
_____	)	

COMES NOW the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), under the authority granted by the laws of the state of Washington, having reviewed the file of the above-referenced case, and having considered the entire evidence contained therein, does hereby suspend the Washington Education Certificate No. 269611J, of Leslie Benedict for twenty-four (24) months based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

## FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Leslie Benedict was issued a Washington Education Certificate, No. 269611J, on October 3, 1985. That certificate currently remains valid.
2. Leslie Benedict was employed by the Wahluke School District.
3. On June 11, 2008, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the superintendent of the Wahluke School District alleging a lack of good moral character or personal fitness, or a violation of the Code of Professional Conduct, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-87, by Leslie Benedict.

LESLIE BENEDICT  
FINAL ORDER OF SUSPENSION



4. On March 21, 2008, Leslie Benedict was placed on administrative leave by Gary Greene, Superintendent of the Wahluke School District for investigation of inappropriate comments to students.

5. On May 1, 2008, A Notice of Probable Cause for Discharge and Notice of Nonrenewal letter was issued to Leslie Benedict.

6. On May 27, 2008, Leslie Benedict submitted a letter of resignation to the Wahluke School District.

7. On June 1, 2008, Leslie Benedict, while camping at Wanapum State Park: attempted to solicit sex from an adult female; made numerous 911 emergency phone calls, stating that "someone is going to die tonight and its not going to be him"; was observed by Kittitas County Sheriff's Office deputies, holding a compound bow in the "relaxed but ready position"; and made threats to a Kittitas County deputy sheriff. Leslie Benedict was arrested and booked into the Kittitas County Jail on charges of Intimidating a Public Servant, Soliciting Another for Sexual Favors, and Disorderly Conduct; Kittitas County Sheriff's Office report #S08-07366.

8. On June 4, 2008, an Information was filed in Kittitas County Superior Court, Cause #08-1-00161-9, charging Leslie Benedict, under the name Bruce Leslie Benedict, with: Patronizing a Prostitute, RCW 9A.88.110; Intimidating a Public Servant, RCW 9A.76.180 and 9A.04.110; and Felony Harassment, RCW 9A.46.020.

9. On January 6, 2009, Leslie Benedict participated in an interview with an OPP investigator. At a point in the interview, Leslie Benedict declined to answer any further questions.

10. Leslie Benedict provided a sworn statement to OPP on January 21, 2009.

11. On April 9, 2009, Leslie Benedict was found guilty, by plea, of Felony Harassment, 9A.46.020, and sentenced; Kittitas County Superior Court Cause #08-1-00161-9.

12. Good moral character and personal fitness is a continuing requirement to maintain a Washington Education Certificate.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW


1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Leslie Benedict and over the subject matter of this action.
2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 269611J, of Leslie Benedict, should be suspended as provided for in WAC 181-86-070.
3. Leslie Benedict has violated RCW 28A.410.090, WAC 181-86-013, and/or WAC 181-86-014.

**ORDER**

It has been thirty days since the Proposed Order of Suspension was received. The appeal time period has passed. It is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 269611J, of Leslie Benedict is Suspended.

DATED This 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009.

RANDY I. DORN  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

  
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Martin T. Mueller  
Assistant Superintendent  
Student Support