



# SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

DR. TERRY BERGESON OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • PO BOX 47200 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-7200 • <http://www.k12.wa.us>

I, Mary Mygdal, certify that on 5-29-01, I mailed a 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.

IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION )  
CERTIFICATE OF )

OPP No. D00-09-109

John DeForest )  
Certificate No. 226860E )

FINAL ORDER OF )  
SUSPENSION )

Thirty calendar days have transpired since the mailing to Lewis Card, Attorney of a Proposed Order of Suspension. John DeForest's failure to make a timely appeal of such order authorizes this agency to issue a Final Order of Suspension based on the Findings of Fact and the Conclusions of Law set forth in the Proposed Order of Suspension.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. John DeForest was issued a Washington education certificate, No. 226860E, on March 2, 1978. This certificate currently remains valid.
2. John DeForest was employed by the South Whidbey School District.

JOHN DEFOREST  
FINAL ORDER OF SUSPENSION -1-

3. On August 14, 2000, the Office of Professional Practices, within OSPI, received a complaint letter from the Superintendent of the South Whidbey 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) 180-87, by John DeForest.
4. John DeForest was employed by the Issaquah School District, Issaquah High School, from the fall 1988 to the spring of 1990.
5. During the, 1989/1990 school year John DeForest gave prolonged and intimate hugs to a female student. He shared personal and intimate information with the student.
6. During the 1990/1991 school year the relationship between John DeForest and this student included sexual contact.
7. John DeForest composed six (6) letters addressed to "JB" and "Kiddo" that were delivered to the female student.
8. John DeForest had sexual intercourse with the female student several times.
9. On May 14, 2000, the former female student filed a witness statement with Issaquah Police Department, case number 00-3381. This statement alleges inappropriate sexual contact on

the part of John DeForest. No investigation was initiated due to the statute of limitations requirements.

10. On July 10, 2000, the former student composed a letter to Jane DeForest, spouse of John DeForest, describing the student's relationship with John DeForest.

11. On July 25, 2000, South Whidbey School District received a letter from the former student alleging inappropriate sexual contact on the part of John DeForest.

12. Effective August 11, 2000, John DeForest resigned from South Whidbey Intermediate School.

13. Good moral character and personal fitness is a continuing requirement to maintain a Washington education certificate.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over John DeForest and over the subject matter of this action.
2. OSPI has shown by clear and convincing evidence that the Washington education certificate, No. 226860E, of John DeForest, should be suspended as provided for in WAC 180-86-070.

3. John DeForest has violated WAC 180-87 and RCW 28A.410.090

**ORDER**

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington education certificate, No. 226860E, of John DeForest, be suspended for a minimum of thirty-six (36) months.

Reinstatement shall require submission of a new application, provided by OPP and having John DeForest's fingerprints be checked by both the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Washington State Patrol (WSP).

DATED This 24<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2001.

DR. TERRY BERGESON  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

By: 

Dr. William I. Jordan  
Deputy Superintendent  
General Administration and Operations