



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)	
CERTIFICATE OF)	OPP No. D15-09-086
)	
Jeffrey Willis)	FINAL ORDER OF
Certificate No. 377071F)	MANDATORY PERMANENT
_____)	REVOCATION

INTRODUCTION

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Renton School District regarding the above referenced educator, and based upon the facts available as of the date of this Proposed Order, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, through his undersigned designee, Dierk Meierbachtol, institutes this proceeding and finds, as described below, that Jeffrey Willis engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct to include an inappropriate relationship with a female student, sexual misconduct with a female student and a conviction for a felony sex offense involving a minor.

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On May 3, 2000, Jeffrey Willis, hereafter referred to as Mr. Willis, was issued Washington Education Certificate, No. 377071F. That certificate currently remains valid.

Sexual Misconduct, Inappropriate Relationship with Student, and School District Actions

2. During the 2005-2006 school year, Mr. Willis, then a middle school teacher, was involved in an inappropriate relationship with R.F., a 13 year old female student.

a. Mr. Willis and R.F. engaged in a personal relationship; which consisted of, but not limited to:

1. E-mails and cell phone calls.

JEFFREY WILLIS
FINAL ORDER OF MANDATORY PERMANENT REVOCATION

2. R.F. disclosing to Mr. Willis that she had received a verbal sexual advance from an older male.
 - a. Mr. Willis failed to report this to CPS and/or law enforcement.
3. Mr. Willis transporting R.F. in his personal vehicle without school or parents' knowledge and permission.
 - b. Mr. Willis wrote and gave R.F. notes and/or e-mails expressing his affection for her.
 - c. Mr. Willis and R.F. met in his classroom and discussed engaging in a romantic, physical relationship.
3. During the 2005-2006 school year and through the summer of 2005, Mr. Willis engaged in sexual intercourse and sexual contact with R.F., who was 14 years of age when the sexual intimacy began.
4. R.F. ended the relationship at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year after she began attending a high school.
5. In late August 2015, the Renton School District received information that Mr. Willis had engaged in a sexual relationship with a student during the 2005-2006 school year.
6. On August 25, 2015, Mr. Willis was placed on administrative leave by the Renton School District.
7. On September 16, 2015, Mr. Willis was issued a Notice of Probable Cause for Discharge by the Renton School District. Mr. Willis did not appeal the Discharge.

Criminal Investigation and Prosecution

8. On August 25, 2015, the Renton Police Department was notified of the sexual misconduct and an investigation was initiated. Renton Police Case Number 2015-9847
 - a. On September 24, 2015, Mr. Willis was interviewed at the Renton Police Department. During the interview, Mr. Willis admitted to the inappropriate relationship and sexual intercourse with R.F.

JEFFREY WILLIS
FINAL ORDER OF MANDATORY PERMANENT REVOCATION

b. On October 15, 2015, an Information and Certification for Determination of Probable Cause were filed in King County Superior Court charging Mr. Willis with Rape of a Child 3rd Degree, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 9A.44.079. King County Superior Court Cause No. 15-1-06525-1 KNT

c. On April 8, 2016, a Statement of Defendant on Plea of Guilty to Felony Sex Offense was filed in King County Superior Court for Cause No. 15-1-06525-1 KNT. In the statement, Mr. Willis pled guilty to the offenses listed in the Information.

d. On April 8, 2016, Mr. Willis was found guilty by plea and sentenced.

9. Mr. Willis has been offered an opportunity to respond to the allegations of misconduct, as per RCW 28A.410.090. As of the date of this Order, Mr. Willis has not provided a response to the Office of Professional Practices.

10. Mr. Willis has been convicted of a crime identified in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.410.090 (4). Such a plea or conviction authorizes OSPI to permanently revoke the Education Certificate.

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Chapter 28A.410 RCW gives the Professional Educator Standards Board the authority to develop regulations determining eligibility for and certification of personnel employed in the common schools of the state of Washington. OSPI acts as the administrator of those statutes and regulations and has the authority to issue, suspend, and revoke education certificates. RCW 28A.410.090. WAC 181-86 and WAC 181-87 further implement OPSI's authority.

2. OSPI has jurisdiction over Mr. Willis and the subject matter discussed herein.

3. Mr. Willis committed acts of unprofessional conduct pursuant to WAC 181-87-080, WAC 181-87-060, and RCW 28A.410.090.

4. There is clear and convincing evidence that Mr. Willis committed an act of unprofessional conduct. WAC 181-86-170.

JEFFREY WILLIS
FINAL ORDER OF MANDATORY PERMANENT REVOCATION

5. Eleven factors are to be considered to determine the appropriate level and range of educator discipline:

1. The seriousness of the act(s) and the actual or potential harm to persons or property;
2. The person's criminal history including the seriousness and amount of activity;
3. The age and maturity level of participant(s) at the time of the activity;
4. The proximity or remoteness of time in which the acts occurred;
5. Any activity that demonstrates a disregard for health, safety or welfare;
6. Any activity that demonstrates a behavioral problem;
7. Any activity that demonstrates a lack of fitness;
8. Any information submitted regarding discipline imposed by any governmental or private entity as a result of acts or omissions;
9. Any information submitted that demonstrates aggravating or mitigating circumstances;
10. Any information submitted to support character and fitness;
11. And any other relevant information submitted.

5. Based on the foregoing facts and considering them in light of the eleven factors enumerated in WAC 181-86-080, and in light of WAC 181-86-075, RCW 28A.410.090(4)(c), WAC 181-87-080; WAC 181-87-060(1), Mr. Willis should be permanently revoked for unprofessional conduct and a felony sex offense conviction.

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JEFFREY WILLIS
FINAL ORDER OF MANDATORY PERMANENT REVOCATION

III. ORDER

Therefore, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 377071F, of Jeffrey Willis be permanently revoked.

DATED This 14th day of July, 2016.

RANDY I. DORN
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington



Dierk Mejerbachtol
Chief Legal Officer