



SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Chris Reykdal Old Capitol Building · PO BOX 47200 · Olympia, WA 98504-7200 · <http://www.k12.wa.us>

RE: Stephen Castilleja
OSPI Case Number: D16-06-038
Document: Final Order of Mandatory Permanent Revocation

Regarding your request for information about the above-named educator; attached is a true and correct copy of the document on file with the State of Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Office of Professional Practices. These records are considered certified by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Certain information may have been redacted pursuant to Washington state laws. While those laws require that most records be disclosed on request, they also state that certain information should not be disclosed.

The following information has been withheld: **None**

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the information that was redacted, if any, please contact:

OSPI Public Records Office
P.O. Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200
Phone: (360) 725-6372
Email: PublicRecordsRequest@k12.wa.us

You may appeal the decision to withhold or redact any information by writing to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, OSPI P.O. Box 47200, Olympia, WA 98504-7200.



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IN THE MATTER OF THE EDUCATION)
CERTIFICATE OF)

OPP No. D16-06-038

STEPHEN CASTILLEJA)
Certificate No. 507611B)

FINAL ORDER OF
MANDATORY PERMANENT
REVOCATION

After receiving and investigating a complaint from Granger School District (“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, institutes this proceeding and finds, as described below, that STEPHEN CASTILLEJA (“Educator”) engaged in acts of unprofessional conduct to include WAC 181-86-013(1), and does hereby PERMANENTLY REVOKE the Educator’s Washington Education Certificate No. 507611B, pursuant to RCW 28A.410.090(4)(c), based on the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On July 14, 2014, the Educator was issued a Pre-residency Clearance, No. 507611B, for his student teaching program. On November 24, 2014, the Educator was issued Emergency Substitute Teacher Certificate, No. 507611B. On December 30, 2014, the Educator was issued a First Issue Residency Teacher Certificate, No. 507611B. The First Issue Residency Teacher Certificate does not have an expiration date.

2. On June 13, 2016, the Office of Professional Practices (“OPP”), within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (“OSPI”), received a complaint letter from Ms. Margarita Lopez, the Superintendent of the School District, reporting that the Educator was arrested on May 12, 2016, and incarcerated in Benton County with one or more charges involving young children.

3. On or about May 12, 2016, the School District mailed a letter to the Educator, placing him on paid administrative leave. The letter stated the reason for the action was because the school district received notification from law enforcement that the Educator had been arrested on allegations of criminal activity.

4. On or about May 13, 2016, the School District mailed a letter to the Educator, informing him that his contract for the 2016–2017 school year would not be renewed due to, “Failure to demonstrate a level of judgment that meets our expectations of what is necessary for a teacher providing service to our students (i.e. conduct underlying your arrest, incarceration, and pending criminal charges).” The Educator was a provisional employee.

5. On May 17, 2016, Ms. Megan A. Whitmire, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, filed an Information in Benton County Superior Court, Cause No. 16-1-00484-2, charging the Educator with one count of Child Molestation in the First Degree in violation of RCW 9A.44.083, and one count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor in violation of RCW 9.68A.040(1)(b).

6. On May 25, 2016, Ms. Whitmire, filed an Information and Motion for Arrest/Detention/Statement of Probable Cause in Benton County Superior Court, Cause No. 16-1-00507-5, charging the Educator with two counts of Rape of a Child in the First Degree in violation of RCW 9A.44.073.

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7. On May 27, 2016, Mr. Jeff Bickford, Task Force Officer with Homeland Security Investigations, filed a Criminal Complaint and an Affidavit in Support of Complaint in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, Case No. 4:16-MJ-07073-MKD, alleging probable cause existed to issue a warrant for arrest of the Educator for Production of Child Pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a).

8. On June 7, 2016, an Indictment was filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, Case No. 4:16-CR-6032-EFS, charging the Educator with three (3) counts of Production of Child Pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a), one (1) count of Distribution of Child Pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(2)(A), and one (1) count of Possession of Child Pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2252A(a)(5)(B).

9. On July 18, 2017, the Educator executed a plea agreement in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, Case No. 4:16-CR-6032-EFS. The Educator resolved both the Federal and the State charges with this plea agreement as part of a single, global resolution. The Educator pleaded guilty to the three (3) counts of Production of Child Pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2251(a). In a separate plea agreement, filed with the Benton County Superior Court, Case No. 16-1-00507-5, the Educator pleaded guilty to two (2) counts of Rape of a Child in the First Degree in violation of RCW 9A.44.073, and in Case No. 16-1-00484-2, the Educator pleaded guilty to one (1) count Child Molestation in the First degree in violation of RCW 9A.44.083. The state of Washington, pursuant to the combined plea agreement, agreed to recommend a 318 month (26.5 year) term of imprisonment to run concurrent to the federal sentence.

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10. On October 31, 2017, a Sentencing Hearing was held, and an Order Accepting Guilty Plea Agreement was filed in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington, Case No. 4:16-CR-6032-EFS. The Educator was sentenced to twenty-seven (27) years imprisonment with recommended placement at the Federal Correctional Institute (“FCI”) Englewood, Colorado, or FCI Elkton, Ohio, and participation in the sex offender management program while in custody.

11. The Educator has been offered an opportunity to respond to the allegations of misconduct, as per RCW 28A.410.090. On or about July 12, 2017, OPP received a letter from the Educator stating he had no comment to give regarding his pending Federal and State criminal charges. The Educator indicated he had previously surrendered his certificate in June 2016.

12. The Educator has pleaded guilty or has been convicted of a crime listed in RCW 28A.410.090(4). Such a plea or conviction authorizes OSPI to permanently revoke Education Certificate No. 507611B of Stephen Castilleja.

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, reprimand, suspend, and revoke education certificates. RCW 28A.410.010; RCW 28A.410.090. Chapters 181-86 and 181-87 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) further implement OSPI’s authority.

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

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3. The Educator has demonstrated a lack of good moral character and personal fitness pursuant to WAC 181-86-013.

4. There is clear and convincing evidence that the Educator has demonstrated a lack of good moral character and personal fitness. WAC 181-86-175.

5. Pursuant to WAC 181-86-080 eleven (11) factors, at a minimum, 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; and
11. Any other relevant information submitted.

6. 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 (Grounds for Issuance of an Order of Revocation), RCW 28A.410.090(4)(c), WAC 181-86-013, and WAC 181-86-014, Stephen Castilleja's education certificate should be permanently revoked for lack of good moral character and personal fitness and felony child pornography and sex offenses.

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III. ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the Washington Education Certificate, No. 507611B, of STEPHEN CASTILLEJA is **PERMANENTLY REVOKED**.

DATED this 26th day of February, 2018.

CHRIS REYKDAL
Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Washington

Signed: Dierk Meierbachtol
Chief Legal Officer