



**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 )  
APPLICATION OF )  
Melina Booth )  
DOB: [REDACTED] 1983 )

OPP No. A09-02-035  
DENIAL ORDER  
FOR CERTIFICATION

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 deny the education application of MELINA BOOTH based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law set forth below:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Melina Booth applied for a Washington education certificate on February 3, 2009.
2. On the Character and Fitness Supplement, a part of the application process, Melina Booth answered 'yes' to questions 8, 9, 10 and 11, Section II, Professional Fitness regarding having been dismissed from employment involving children or dependent adults; having resigned or otherwise left employment while allegations of misconduct pending; having been disciplined by an employer; and having been the subject of any investigation or inquiry by an employer because of allegations of misconduct.

3. As part of the character and fitness supplement, Melina Booth submitted a written explanation regarding her 'yes' answers.

4. Melina Booth signed a consent form allowing the Office of Professional Practices (OPP) contact with Intermountain Center for Human Development (ICHD). Melina Booth again submitted a written explanation to OPP which included additional information regarding the reason for discipline.

5. On March 23, 2009, the Intermountain Center for Human Development provided information to OPP regarding the allegations of misconduct and termination of Melina Booth.

6. The ICHD supervision logs for Melina Booth show that group counseling sessions for residential staff were held on July 18, 2006 and July 25, 2006. These sessions covered client review, boundaries/ethical concerns and addressed consistency and follow-through with house rules.

7. The ICHD supervision logs for Melina Booth show an individual counseling session was conducted on July 24, 2006, addressing boundaries/ethical concerns; specifically addressing an incident over the weekend and requesting Melina Booth attend boundary in-service on July 26, 2006.

8. An individual counseling session was conducted on July 28, 2006 with Melina Booth, which addressed boundaries/ethical concerns. This included a written warning regarding Melina

Booth taking clients to her home, the issue that she did not attend boundary in-service, and her agreement to a work plan.

9. On August 1, 2006, a staff meeting was held addressing boundaries/ethical concerns. Staff was provided the ICHD guidelines for staff behavior.

10. On August 17, 2006, Melina Booth was terminated from ICHD. The termination form indicates she is not eligible for rehire stating the following: Employee has demonstrated a pattern of unprofessional behavior which stands in contrast to ICHD program standards. Despite one written counseling session and several verbal warnings during supervision, employee continues to have inappropriate boundaries with clients such as taking clients to her home and rough-housing with clients. Employee is not responding to work plan related to these issues.

11. On August 28, 2006, a memorandum was submitted to Human Resources at ICHD indicating that additional incidents of inappropriate conduct were reported to staff following Melina Booth's departure from ICHD.

12. On July 16, 2009, OPP requested Melina Booth submit her ICHD personnel file. Melina Booth did not respond to this request.

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

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. OSPI has jurisdiction over Melina Booth and over the subject matter of this action.
2. Melina Booth has failed to provide clear and convincing evidence of good moral character or personal fitness to receive a Washington education certificate, Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 181-86-170.

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

/

ORDER

THEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that the application for certification of Melina Booth is denied.

This order may be appealed within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of receipt, pursuant to Chapter 181-86 WAC, copy enclosed.


This order will become final thirty days after it is received, unless it is appealed within the thirty day period.

Appeals should be addressed to:

Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Office of Professional Practices  
PO Box 47200  
Olympia, WA 98504

DATED this 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2009.

RANDY I. DORN  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State of Washington

  
Martin T. Mueller  
Assistant Superintendent  
Student Support