

IN THE MATTER OF : NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
THE CERTIFICATES OF : STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS
WILLIAM CORSEY : ORDER OF REVOCATION
_____ : DOCKET NO: 736-12/02

At its meeting of December 12, 2002, the State Board of Examiners reviewed information the Division of Criminal Justice had forwarded indicating that on February 28, 2002, William Corsey had pled guilty to charges of aggravated criminal sexual contact and aggravated sexual assault. On May 23, 2002, Corsey was sentenced to an eight-year prison term and ordered not to have contact with his victims. The court also ordered Corsey to be subject to Megan's Law requirements. Corsey currently holds a Teacher of Art certificate issued in September 1972 and a Teacher of the Handicapped certificate issued in February 1989. Upon review of the above information, at its December 12, 2002, meeting, the State Board of Examiners voted to issue Corsey an Order to Show Cause.

The Board sent Corsey the Order to Show Cause by regular and certified mail on July 14, 2004. The Order provided that Corsey must file an Answer within 30 days. The certified mail receipt was signed for and returned and the regular mail copy was not returned. As Corsey did not file an Answer, the Board sent him a second notice by regular and certified mail on August 20, 2004. Once again, the certified mail receipt was signed for and returned and the regular mail copy was not returned. Corsey did not respond to the second notice.

The threshold issue before the State Board of Examiners in this matter, therefore, is whether Corsey's guilty plea to aggravated sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual contact constitutes conduct unbecoming a certificate holder. Since Corsey did not respond to the Order to Show Cause, the State Board of Examiners had no responsive pleading to consider in the hearing process. It is therefore ORDERED that the charges in the Order to Show Cause are deemed admitted for the purpose of this proceeding. N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.7(c). Since Corsey's conduct, which was predicated on the same conviction as was set forth in the Order to Show Cause, is admitted, the Board of Examiners must now decide whether that constitutes a sufficient basis to act against his certificates pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.7(c). We find that it does.

The State Board of Examiners may revoke or suspend the certification of any certificate holder on the basis of demonstrated inefficiency, incapacity, conduct unbecoming a teacher or other just cause. N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.5. "Teachers ... are professional employees to whom the people have entrusted the care and custody of ... school children. This heavy duty requires a degree of self-restraint and controlled behavior rarely requisite to other types of employment." Tenure of Sammons, 1972 S.L.D. 302, 321. Corsey's acts of aggravated sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual contact are inexcusable for any individual, teacher or not.

Furthermore, unfitness to hold a position in a school system may be shown by one incident, if sufficiently flagrant. Redcay v. State Bd. of Educ., 130 N.J.L. 369, 371 (Sup. Ct. 1943), aff'd., 131 N.J.L. 326 (E & A 1944). In this instance, there can be no dispute that Corsey is not fit to work with children.

Accordingly, it is therefore ORDERED that William Corsey's Teacher of Art and Teacher of the Handicapped certificates be revoked on this 28th day of October 2004. It is further ORDERED that Corsey return his certificates to the Secretary of the State Board of Examiners, Office of Licensing, PO Box 500, Trenton, NJ 08625-0500 within 20 days of the mailing date of this decision.

Michael K. Klavon, Acting Secretary
State Board of Examiners

Date of Mailing: December 29, 2004

Appeals may be made to the State Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:6-28.