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ABSTRACT

This booklet is intended to aid school administrators and teachers in their curriculum development efforts in response to Oregon law requiring instruction in specific aspects of ethics and morality. Suggested activities are presented that emphasize instruction specified in the law. By each suggested activity is a check mark indicating which concepts are taught and symbols that denote the audience for whom the activity is applicable. (MLF)

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# ETHICS AND MORALITY

## Suggested Activities for Instruction as Required By ORS 336.067

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State Superintendent  
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942 Lancaster Drive NE  
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EA 011 167

**Ethics and Morality**

**Suggested Activities for Instruction  
As Required By ORS 336.067**

Summer 1978

Oregon Department of Education  
Salem, Oregon

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**Oregon Department of Education**

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## INTRODUCTION

ORS 336.240 requiring instruction in ethics and morality, including the already codified issue of humane treatment of animals, was signed into law by Governor I. L. Patterson, March 5, 1929. To this was added in 1957 a section covering instruction about alcohol and narcotics.

The law underwent minor rewording and was renumbered as ORS 336.067 in 1965, while 1975 brought instruction about the effects of tobacco, and respect for all humans.

Today the law reads:

336.067 Instruction in ethics and morality. In public schools special emphasis shall be given to instruction in:

- (a) Honesty, morality, courtesy, obedience to law, respect for the national flag, the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Oregon, respect for parents and the home, the dignity and necessity of honest labor and other lessons which tend to promote and develop an upright and desirable citizenry.
- (b) Respect for all humans, regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, sex and handicaps. Acknowledgment of the dignity and worth of individuals and groups and their participative roles in society.
- (c) Humane treatment of animals.
- (d) The effects of tobacco, alcohol and narcotics upon the human system.

(2) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall prepare an outline with suggestions which will best accomplish the purpose of this section and shall incorporate the outline in the courses of study for all public schools.

(Formerly 336.240; 1975 c. 531 s. 1)

While ORS 336.067 requires instruction in specific aspects of ethics and morality, the mandate does not *limit* what can be taught. Schools should work with their communities to reach a consensus about additional concepts they hope their youngsters will acquire.

### PURPOSE OF THIS BOOKLET

*Ethics and Morality* has been developed in response to Section 1, paragraph (2) of ORS 336.067. Suggested activities are presented which emphasize instruction specified in the law. School administrators and teachers may use this booklet as an aid in their curriculum development efforts, and all or any part of this booklet may be reproduced.

### CONCEPTS MENTIONED IN THE LAW

Aspects of ethics and morality presented in the law are described below, accompanied by suggested program goals.

#### Honesty

Honesty is the state or quality of being truthful. An honest individual refrains from lying, cheating or stealing. An honest individual is truthful, trustworthy, sincere, fair and straightforward in relationships with others.

Program Goal: The student will understand the importance of being truthful and just in relationships with others.

### **Morality**

Morality is a system of principles (or a code) of right and wrong conduct, actual or idealized, as in democratic morality, Christian morality, etc.

Program Goal: The student will understand and apply principles of right conduct.

### **Courtesy**

Courtesy is respect for and consideration of others.

Program Goal: The student will be able to show consideration for the comfort and feelings of others.

### **Obedience to law**

Laws and rules are necessary for people to function in an orderly society. Obedience to law involves acceptable individual behavior, which is interpreted through the laws and rules approved by the group.

Program Goal: The student will understand why citizens should abide by the rules and laws of society.

### **Respect for the national flag**

Students should learn how our national heritage is symbolized in the national flag, they should know the pledge of allegiance to the flag and should learn the accepted ways of displaying and handling the flag.

Program Goal: The student will understand the principles of freedom and duty symbolized by the flag.

### **The Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Oregon**

Students should understand the content of these documents, how they developed historically and how they function in our society to guarantee individual rights and freedom.

Program Goal: The student will know the principles and procedures embodied in the basic laws of the nation and state, will understand that the national and state constitutions are guarantors of freedom and civil justice and are the base for representative self-government.

### **Respect for parents and the home**

Although there are various types of families in society, the family remains the basic social unit. Students should understand and appreciate family loyalty as a basic social principle.

Program Goal: The student will understand the need for loyalty and personal responsibility to family members.

### **The dignity and necessity of honest labor**

Students should learn the importance of setting and striving toward individual goals as they achieve knowledge and acquire various skills in school. An awareness of the different kinds of jobs and their accompanying responsibilities should be taught, along with specific job-related skills.

Program Goal: The student will be industrious and self-reliant and respect the dignity (and worth) of honest and productive labor.

**Respect for all humans regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, age, sex or handicaps. Acknowledgment of the dignity and worth of individuals and groups and their participative roles in society.**

Students of differing ethnic groups, religious and cultural backgrounds, and diverse abilities should be encouraged to work cooperatively together to accomplish common goals. Other cultures are studied, as well as the problems unique to special groups.

Program Goal: The student will respect the dignity and worth of all humans.

### **Humane treatment of animals**

Students should develop an appreciation for all animal life.

Program Goal: The student will respect all forms of animal life and will understand the ethical code of the scientific community regarding treatment of experimental animals.

### The effects of tobacco, alcohol, and narcotics upon the human system

Students should learn the effects of tobacco, alcohol and narcotics upon the human system, and learn negative effects of the abuse of drugs.

Program Goal: The student will understand the effects of tobacco, alcohol and narcotics on the human body and the consequences of choosing to use or not use such substances.

### THE EDUCATOR'S ROLE

Children develop their sense of ethics and morality by observing adults in their environment. Educators exert a tremendous influence on youngsters—they can help students be honest by being honest with them; they can help students learn courtesy by being courteous to them.

#### IF . . .

- If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
- If a child lives with fears, he learns to be apprehensive.
- If a child lives with pity, he learns to feel sorry for himself.
- If a child lives with jealousy, he learns to feel guilty.
- If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident.
- If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with praise, he learns to be appreciative.
- If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love.
- If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
- If a child lives with recognition, he learns to have a goal.
- If a child lives with fairness, he learns what justice is.
- If a child lives with honesty, he learns what truth is.
- If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith in himself and in those about him.
- If a child lives with friendliness, he learns that the world is a good place in which to live.

Instruction in ethics and morality should permeate the entire instructional program. Responsibility cannot lie with a particular teacher; each educator must constantly be alert to the implications in discipline.

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To determine whether a district is meeting the intent of ORS 336.067, that district's superintendent could appoint a committee to consider how each aspect of the law is dealt with in the instructional program. The committee should consist of persons from administration, school staff, parents, students and community groups.

### RELATED RESOURCES

Materials which address particular sections of this law have been distributed to schools by the Department of Education. *Alcohol Studies for Oregon Public Schools* was published and distributed in 1955 and again in 1963, while *Toward Responsible Drug Education* guides were distributed to all schools in 1970. Both in 1965 and 1974 "You and the Law" materials were distributed to all sixth grade teachers, to help instruct students in their relationship with our legal system.

Career education materials stressing the dignity of labor (along with other concepts) have been distributed periodically by the Career Education Section of the Department of Education. Flag etiquette booklets and copies of the Oregon and U.S. Constitutions have been sent to schools on a number of occasions.

\*Wallis, Charles L., ed., *The Treasure Chest*. New York: Harper and Row, 1965; page 54.

\*\*Contact the Documents Clerk, Department of Education, for materials.

Teachers can use a variety of additional materials and experiences to stimulate discussion with students. Any of the following might be considered:

Problem solving: select situations, either fictional or based on real life experiences

Films, filmstrips, pictures, and videotapes

Sound tapes and phonograph records

Case studies

Media including radio, television, newspapers and motion pictures

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

The following pages present activities that may be used to help meet the intent of ORS 336.067. Please note that the list is a sampling of ideas; administrators, teachers, parents and students may suggest other activities to serve local interests and needs.

Honesty	Morality	Courtesy	Obedience to Law	Respect for the National Flag	The Constitution of the U.S.	Respect for Parents and the Home	Dignity and Necessity of Labor	Respect for All Humans	Humane Treatment of Animals	Effects of Tobacco, Alcohol & Narcotics	<b>Symbols in last column</b> K-3 Primary Teachers 4-6 Intermediate Teachers 7-9 Junior High School Teachers 10-12 Senior High School Teachers C Counselors EP Elementary School Principals SP Secondary School Principals S Superintendents M Media Coordinators A All of the above plus students
•											Adults working with children should acknowledge their mistakes to students and admit to students that they do not have all the answers. <span style="float: right;">EP SP A</span>
•	•										Use current events materials which illustrate the consequences of antisocial behavior. Discuss the probable effects of these acts on the lives of the individuals involved. <span style="float: right;">K-12</span>
•	•					•	•				Stress the concept of the Golden Rule to students as they interact with others in school and classroom activities. <span style="float: right;">A</span>
•	•					•	•				Have students discuss the statement, "Man has learned to split the mighty atom but has never learned to break a prejudice." List ways students and teachers can help eliminate race and class prejudice and prejudice toward those who are different from oneself. Initiate means of follow-through. <span style="float: right;">K-12</span>
•	•					•	•	•			Develop a student buddy system or tutoring system where able students are assigned to help those students who are educationally disadvantaged or physically or mentally handicapped. <span style="float: right;">K-12 EP SP</span>
•	•					•	•	•			Take advantage of many opportunities in the curriculum where students can work together in heterogeneous groups; focus on human relations skills, leadership and teamwork skills. <span style="float: right;">K-12 EP SP</span>

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•	•	•	•					•				<p>Invite a senior citizen as a guest speaker to talk with students about changing laws, how courtesy was taught to them when they were young, conditions and activities for senior citizens, the history of prohibition as they recall it, etc.</p>	K-12
•	•	•						•				<p>Organize inservice and preservice education programs concerned with improving intergroup human relations, increasing teacher awareness of the histories and cultures of minority groups.</p>	A
		•										<p>Have periodic sharing circles where students can take turns telling their stories without interruption.</p>	K-6
		•										<p>Have students develop a dining etiquette handbook. They might interview a number of people in school. The book might be used for special events such as school banquets.</p>	K-12
•	•	•										<p>Through a student council, or in a classroom, encourage student participation in developing school rules and policy, thus obtaining more student commitment.</p>	A
		•										<p>Conduct a class discussion on the topic, "What Our Community Would Be Like Without Laws."</p>	K-12
		•										<p>Invite a policeman, attorney or judge to talk with students about their relationships with the law. Students might list those laws which they encounter in their lives.</p>	K-12
		•										<p>Use "You and the Law Topic Kit" to help develop a legal education program for grade 6 or for the intermediate grades.</p>	EP 4-6
		•										<p>Arrange for the students to spend a day in court. Sometimes students are allowed to discuss proceedings with the judge before the court session and ask questions of the judge after the session adjourns.</p>	7-12

Symbols in last column

- K-3 Primary Teachers
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- SP Secondary School Principals
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- M Media Coordinators
- A All of the above plus students

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												Use case studies which relate legal decisions to the U.S. and Oregon Constitutions. For a "Bibliography of Law Related Curriculum Materials: Annotated" including case studies and other materials, write to the Special Committee on Youth Education for Citizenship, American Bar Association, American Bar Center, 1155 East 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637.	7-12
												Invite a store manager to talk to the class about shoplifting. Information students might gather include: What action the store takes when thief is caught. How the store or local laws define shoplifting. A description of some cases. Why people shoplift. Statistics on shoplifting in the store, the state, the nation. The estimated cost to the consumer. How the cost of shoplifting is covered.	1-12
												Have students research the individual rights of citizens in several foreign countries with different political systems and compare those with the rights of American citizens.	7-12
												Have students make posters about the American democratic society by finding pictures or drawing pictures which illustrate our various individual rights and placing a caption under each picture of the rights which it represents.	K-9
												Discuss with students the importance of the flag and the role the flag plays in national unity.	K-12
												Read and discuss the story of Betsy Ross making the flag; review the significance of the flag's colors and patterns.	K-9
												Study the evolution of the flag as it changed from 13 to 50 stars.	K-12
												Study and sing the "Star Spangled Banner"; review the story of its composition; discuss the meaning of its phrases.	K-12



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												Have students look up the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution, list the provision of each and discuss how each one has been important in American life.	7-12
												While studying families, compare the families of different cultures. List their similarities and differences. Discuss the different family structures in American society (e.g., one-parent family) with older children.	K-12
												Discuss the difference between a house and a home.	K-9
												Organize a panel of 3-5 parents to discuss with students the home as the basic unit of our society. Discuss the contributions the home makes to the total development of individuals.	7-12
												Describe a typical problem or conflict which parents have in the discipline of their teenagers. Have students propose practical solutions to the problem.	4-12
												Provide an awareness program (grades K-6), an exploratory program (grades 7-10), and a work experience program (grades 11-12) to help students prepare for the world of work.	K-12 EP SP S/C
												Make an inventory of the different jobs (occupations) held by adults with whom the children are acquainted. Have them gather information regarding the nature of these jobs and how they contribute to society.	K-9
												Organize a school tour day when community members tour the classrooms and explain their jobs to students.	K-12
												Excuse students for one day during the school year to attend work with a parent or close friend to become acquainted with that person's work or occupation, and become aware of other occupations around which that person is working.	4-12

Honesty Morality Courtesy Obedience to Law Respect for the National Flag The Constitution of the U.S. The Constitution of Oregon Respect for Parents and the Home Dignity and Necessity of Labor Respect for All Humans Dignity and Worth Humane Treatment of Animals Effects of Tobacco, Alcohol & Narcotics										Symbols in last column K-3 Primary Teachers 4-6 Intermediate Teachers 7-9 Junior High School Teachers 10-12 Senior High School Teachers C Counselors EP Elementary School Principals SP Secondary School Principals S Superintendents M Media Coordinators A All of the above plus <u>students</u>	
										Have students identify the various kinds of jobs they observe while on a field trip. Discuss the responsibilities and contributions of each to our society.	K-9
										Invite one or more personnel managers or supervisors to talk with students on the topic, "The characteristics of our best employees." Have students list those characteristics employers mention. Determine if common characteristics are reported by different employers.	4-12
										Help students understand the human behavior which influences the development of self-concepts and how this relates to respect for all humans, regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, sex or handicaps. Activity: Ask students to report findings resulting from TV viewing or other activities which seem to categorize people into various groups.	7-9 10-12
10										On special days such as Christmas, Halloween, and Valentine's Day have students develop special artistic, dramatic and musical presentations for golden age clubs and homes for the elderly or handicapped.	K-12
										Plan classroom activities that expose students to the cultures of societies other than their own.	K-12
										When studying nutrition, compare the diets of different ethnic groups and of different cultures.	K-12
										Celebrate a Mexican Christmas by making a pinata and using it in a traditional Mexican ceremony. Discuss and study foreign customs in other holiday celebrations.	K-12
										Participate in the annual Oregon Humane Society Poster Contest.	K-6
										Study the treatment and care of animals at an animal hospital. If possible, arrange a field trip to such a clinic. Discuss how the treatment given animals differs from the treatment given humans in a hospital.	K-9

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										●	Have students study animal protective shelters. Ask them to gather information regarding the number of animals a shelter cares for in a year; the reasons animals are taken to the shelter; the kinds of animals the shelter will accept; how the money for operating the shelter is obtained; what the animal shelter costs are; other information in which students are interested.	4-9
										●	Use the services of local humane societies and the Oregon Humane Society for acquiring the names of appropriate resource people, pamphlets, periodicals, etc. (Oregon Humane Society, PO Box 11364, Portland, OR 97211.)	K-12
										●	Take students on field trips where they can observe animals in zoos, farm animals, etc., and see how animals are cared for. Study and discuss the care of farm animals.	K-6
										●	Study and discuss the care of pets.	K-6
										●	Give students the responsibility for caring for animals in the classroom or at other school settings.	K-9
										●	Have students discuss the conflicting attitudes about various drugs which are prevalent among different groups in this country.	4-12
										●	Assign students individually to gather information about different drugs for a classroom chart. Include the name of the drug, its classification and derivation, effect on the human system, how the drug is introduced into the body.	4-12
										●	Have students list the possible physical, psychological, social and economic effects which drug dependency might have on the individual and the family.	4-12
										●	Have students prepare papers on such topics as: How smoking affects the human body How alcohol affects the human body My views on the treatment of drug abusers How the abuser can be returned to health	K-12

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												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have students prepare lists of helpful and harmful drugs. Discuss how helpful drugs can become harmful. K-12</li> </ul>
												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have students prepare a program for a PTA meeting or an assembly on drug usage, hazards, benefits. K-12</li> </ul>
												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have students prepare guidelines for using drugs and medications safely. 4-12</li> </ul>
												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● After describing a series of circumstances or examples of drug use, have students determine which are proper use and which represent misuse. 4-12</li> </ul>
												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have students discuss how they would react if the driver of an automobile in which they were to ride had been using drugs. 4-12</li> </ul>
												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ask a resource speaker from an insurance company to talk to students about the effects of tobacco, alcohol and narcotics on life expectancy; the relationships of various kinds of insurance costs (e.g., automobile, life) to the habitual use of tobacco, alcohol and narcotics. 4-12</li> </ul>
												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Study centers for the treatment of drug addiction, alcoholism, smoking. Consider field trips to centers, resource persons from centers, media and written materials from and about the centers. 4-12</li> </ul>
												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have students assume the role of parents and write a paper on "How I would feel if my child were using drugs." 4-12</li> </ul>
												<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discuss with the students the various processes and influences which tend to form individual attitudes toward drugs. Consider such factors as psychological needs, social needs, family, school, peer groups, church. 4-12</li> </ul>



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●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Develop a listing of resource persons including local people such as law enforcement officers, lawyers, judges, psychologists, clergymen and other interested and qualified citizens, which teachers may call on to talk with students regarding aspects of ORS 336.067.	M
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Invite outside resource people to talk with students about various aspects of ORS 336.067 (i.e., a policeman to talk about the law; a speaker from the American Legion to talk about the flag; someone from the Humane Society to talk about humane treatment of animals; a minister to talk about honesty and morality; a panel of parents to talk about the dignity of honest labor).	K-12
●	●	●	●			●							Develop guidelines for building principals for improving and maintaining a strong school-home relations program through improved communications, teacher-parent cooperation, etc.	S EP SP
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Evaluate the effectiveness of instruction in the areas specified in ORS 336.067.	A
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Research the school district community to determine the predominant views on moral-ethical education, particularly those areas specified in ORS 336.067. The research might be based on a system of interviews and questionnaires.	A
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Appoint an advisory committee from the parents of the school. Ask this committee to study ORS 336.067 and recommend instructional activities to the school faculty for achieving the various aspects of the law.	EP SP
●	●	●				●		●		●			Conduct parent study groups to help parents resolve problems of child rearing (e.g., PTA).	EP SP C
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Schedule and organize parent meetings such as PTA meetings and coffee hours on various aspects of ORS 336.067. Promote an awareness of the law and discuss with parents what the home can do to support the efforts of the school.	EP SP

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●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	<p>In schools with minority students enrolled, ask a representative committee of parents of these students to study the requirements of ORS 336.067 and recommend a number of school and classroom instructional activities for the achievement of the law's intent.</p>	A
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Provide inservice for teachers district-wide, at the grade, department or building levels, which help teachers find solutions to problems of lack of time, placement of priorities, teaching techniques, specific materials and their use, to help them infuse moral-ethic education into the curriculum.</p>	S SP C M EP
		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	<p>Send reminders to teachers and principals regarding the observance of special days such as flag day, constitution day, citizenship day, etc.</p>	C S

**APPENDIX**

**Related Publications Available Through the  
Department of Education or Other Agencies**

**Related Agencies and Projects**

**Publications Printed and/or Distributed to Oregon Public Schools  
by the Department of Education or Other Agencies**  
which relate to carrying out the intent of ORS 336.067

*Career Education in Oregon: A Statement on Improving Vocational Education*, ODE, 1970.\*

*Dignity and Worth: A Statement on Improving Education for Disadvantaged Individuals*, ODE, 1970.\*

*Elementary-Secondary Guide for Oregon Schools, Parts I and II*, ODE 1977.\*

*Government in Oregon: A Resource on State and Local Government*, ODE, 1976.\*

*Oregon Blue Book*: Office of the Secretary of State, published biennially.

*Personal Finance Education Guide*: ODE, 1974.\*

*Self Understanding Through Occupational Exploration*: ODE, 1967.\*

*Veteran's Day Ceremonies* (and flag etiquette booklet): Veteran's Administration.

The following publications are no longer available for distribution. However, copies may be available through school district and education service districts:

- *Alcohol Education in Oregon Public Schools*, ODE 1963
- *Elementary-Secondary Guide for Oregon Schools*: Prepublication Draft, ODE, 1975
- *Our Living American Heritage: A Resource Unit for Teachers*, ODE, 1963
- *Toward Responsible Drug Education*: ODE, 1970
- *You and the Law: A Topic Kit for Sixth Grade Teachers*, The Oregon Council on Crime and Delinquency and other Agencies, 1977

\*Available through the Documents Clerk, Oregon Department of Education (ODE)

### Related Agencies and Projects

Agency for Instructional Television  
Box A  
Bloomington, IN 47401

The Humane Society of the United States  
2100 L Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Moral Education and Research Foundation  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA 02138

National Council for the Social Studies  
1201 Sixteenth Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Oregon Humane Society  
1067 NE Columbia Boulevard  
PO Box 1,1364  
Portland, OR 97211

Phi Delta Kappa  
8th and Union  
Bloomington, IN 47401

Social Science Education Consortium, Inc.  
855 Broadway  
Boulder, CO 80302

Social Studies Curriculum Center  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Pittsburg, PA 15213

Special Committee on Youth Education for Citizenship  
American Bar Association  
American Bar Center  
1155 East 60th Street  
Chicago, IL 60637