

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the  
Disciplinary Action of the  
Educator Certificate of  
Letecia H. Stauch  
Certificate 261777

ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on February 9, 2021. On March 11, 2020, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Letecia H. Stauch's South Carolina educator certificate. On March 11, 2020, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Ms. Stauch regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate. The SCDE subsequently sent Ms. Stauch a second notice letter on December 28, 2020 informing her of the pending action against her educator certificate and her right to a hearing. The SCDE has verified Ms. Stauch's address. Under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure 5(b), Ms. Stauch has been given fair notice of constitutional due process. She has not contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Ms. Stauch's educator certificate 261777, effective February 9, 2021.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Stauch holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over five years of teaching experience. Ms. Stauch's educator certificate was previously suspended by the State Board from May 11, 2016, to November 7, 2016, due to unprofessional conduct for breach of contract.

On March 11, 2020, the State Board summarily suspended Ms. Stauch's South Carolina educator certification. This action was taken in response to reports Ms. Stauch was arrested on charges of murder in the first degree, child abuse resulting in death, tampering with a deceased human body, and tampering with physical evidence. These charges stemmed from the disappearance of Ms. Stauch's stepson. As a basis for the arrest warrants on the charges, investigators in Colorado submitted a 32-page affidavit that detailed forensic and investigative evidence to support probable cause for the warrants.

At the time of her arrest, Ms. Stauch also held educator certification in Colorado. On October 27, 2020, Ms. Stauch's Colorado educator certification was revoked after she failed to appear before the Colorado administrative court.

Ms. Stauch's criminal charges are still pending. However, Ms. Stauch has not responded to the notice letters from the SCDE and has not requested a hearing in this matter. The SCDE has considered evidence provided by law enforcement and the educator certification body in Colorado. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Ms. Stauch's educator certificate 261777, effective February 9, 2021.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The State Board may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2016). Just cause includes "unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, evident unfitness for position for which employed, and sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that Ms. Stauch engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, and crime against the law of this State or the United States due to the allegations of murder, child abuse resulting in death, tampering with a deceased human body, tampering with physical evidence, and the revocation of her Colorado certification.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke educator certificate 261777, issued in the name of Letecia H. Stauch, effective February 9, 2021. The permanent revocation of Ms. Stauch's educator certificate 261777 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

#### **AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Kristi Woodall, Ed.D.

Kristi Woodall, Ed.D., Chair