

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation	)	
	)	
of the Educator Certificate of	)	ORDER OF PERMANENT
	)	REVOCATION
Ronnie Cain Rogers	)	
	)	
Certificate 238836	)	
	)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 10, 2017. On May 18, 2016, Ronnie Cain Rogers was arrested in Marion, South Carolina and charged with 2 counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the 3rd degree, 1 count of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor in the 1st degree, and 1 count of Unlawful Neglect of a Child in Marion County. On May 19, 2016, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Rogers' educator certificate. On May 20, 2016, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Mr. Rogers regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina Educator Certificate. On July 11, 2016, the Marion County Detention Center accepted service for Mr. Rogers for the summary suspension order and notice letter. Mr. Rogers did not request a hearing and is in default.

On December 7, 2016, Mr. Rogers pled guilty to two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, a violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-655(B)(1) (2016). The Court sentenced Mr. Rogers to fifteen years in prison. Mr. Rogers must register as a sex offender. He is also required to wear a GPS monitor for the remainder of his life, after he is released from prison.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Rogers' educator certificate 238836, effective January 10, 2017.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The State Board has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2016).

Mr. Rogers holds a suspended professional South Carolina educator certificate and has nine years of teaching experience. Mr. Rogers had been employed by the Marion County School District (District) since 2008. During the 2015-2016 school year, the District employed Mr.

Rogers as the music teacher at Easterling Primary School and Marion Intermediate School (School). On May 18, 2016, Mr. Rogers resigned from the District.

On May 18, 2016, Mr. Rogers was arrested and charged with 2 counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 3rd degree, Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 1st degree, and unlawful neglect of a child. The charges allege that Mr. Rogers engaged in this misconduct with a minor student while on School grounds. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(C) (2016) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the SCDE requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend Mr. Rogers' educator certificate as a result of his arrest and his alleged unprofessional conduct with minor students. On May 19, 2016, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Mr. Rogers' educator certificate. On May 20, 2016, the SCDE sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Mr. Rogers via certified mail, restricted delivery, regarding the possible suspension or revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate. The US Postal Service returned the certified mail unclaimed to SCDE. On July 11, 2016, the Marion County Detention Center accepted service for Mr. Rogers for the summary suspension order and notice letter. Mr. Rogers did not request a hearing and is in default.

On December 7, 2016, Mr. Rogers plead guilty to two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, ages 11-14, second degree, in violation of S.C. Code Ann. § 16-3-655(B)(1) (2016). The crime of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, ages 11-14, second degree is classified as violent, most serious crimes and is a felony. The Court sentenced Mr. Rogers to fifteen years in prison at the State Department of Corrections. Mr. Rogers must register as a sex offender. He will be required to wear a GPS monitor for the remainder of his life, after he is released from prison.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Rogers' educator certificate 238836, effective January 10, 2017.

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, conduct involving moral turpitude, crime against the law of this State, immorality, and evident unfitness for position for which employed." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that Mr. Rogers engaged in

unprofessional conduct, conducted involving moral turpitude, immorality, committed crimes against the laws of this state, and demonstrated evident unfitness for the position for which employed, as a result of his unprofessional conduct of a sexual nature with minor students and his guilty plea on December 7, 2016, to two counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, ages 11-14, second degree, in violation of § 16-3-655(B)(1) (2016).

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-280 (A)(1) (2016), the State Board shall permanently revoke a certificate without a hearing if the holder of the certificate pleads guilty to a violent crime as defined in S.C. Code Ann. § 16-1-60 (2016). Mr. Rogers pled guilty to two charges of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, ages 11-14, second degree, which is classified as a violent crime. Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-280 (B) (2016), a school district may not employ an educator in any capacity whose South Carolina certificate is revoked pursuant to S. C. Code Ann § 59-25-280 (A) (2016).

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke educator certificate 238836 issued in the name of Ronnie Cain Rogers. The permanent revocation of Mr. Rogers' educator certificate 238836 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

By: 
Ivan Randolph, Ph.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 10, 2017