

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 SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 11, 2020. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2017), § 59-5-10 (2017), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Letecia H. Stauch, educator certificate 261777, as a result of her arrest on the charges of murder in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree, child abuse resulting in death, tampering with a deceased human body, and tampering with physical evidence.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Ms. Stauch may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students, who may be under her instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Stauch's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Stauch of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Stauch holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate and has five years of educator experience. Ms. Stauch has not worked as a certified educator in South Carolina since 2018. However, she retains educator certification in the State.

On January 27, 2020, Ms. Stauch reported her stepson, Gannon, as a missing child. The El Paso County Sheriff's Office in Colorado began an investigation, which resulted in

Ms. Stauch's arrest on March 2, 2020. According to an official press release from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, Ms. Stauch will be held on the charges of murder in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree, child abuse resulting in death, tampering with a deceased human body, and tampering with physical evidence.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Ms. Stauch may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students who may be under her instruction, and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Ms. Stauch's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Stauch of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of her educator certificate.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2017), "If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-10 (2017) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Ms. Stauch's unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, and evident unfitness for the position for which employed, due to her arrest on the charges of murder in the 1<sup>st</sup> degree, child abuse resulting in death, tampering with a deceased human body, and tampering with physical evidence, there is reason to believe Ms. Stauch

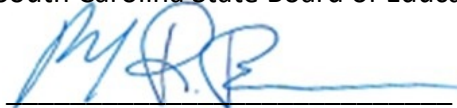
Letecia H. Stauch, Certificate 261777  
Order of Summary Suspension  
March 11, 2020  
Page 3

may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Letecia H. Stauch, educator certificate 261777, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Ms. Stauch of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

South Carolina State Board of Education



Michael Brennan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
March 11, 2020