

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Alan Craig Brown
Certificate 177502

ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 5, 2024. On August 27, 2024, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Alan Craig Brown a notice via regular and certified mail of his right to a hearing regarding the possible permanent revocation of his South Carolina educator certificate. Mr. Brown received the notice on September 3, 2024, as evidenced by a signed postal receipt. He 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 Mr. Brown's educator certificate 177502, effective November 5, 2024.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Brown holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over twenty-two years of teaching experience. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Brown was employed by Dorchester School District Four (District).

Mr. Brown's South Carolina educator certificate was summarily suspended on January 28, 2021, after his arrest for the felony charge of criminal solicitation of a minor. The arrest was the result of an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigation that found Mr. Brown engaged in an online conversation with a female persona that he reasonably believed to be 14 years old, for the purpose or intent to persuade, induce, entice, or coerce the persona to engage in sexual activity. On May 13, 2024, Mr. Brown pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor charge of communicating obscene messages to another person without consent.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Brown's educator certificate 177502, effective November 5, 2024.

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 State, 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 Mr. Brown engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, and crime against the law of this State or the United States due to engaging in sexually explicit conversation with a persona whom he reasonably believed to be under the age of 18.

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its decision that just cause exists to permanently revoke education certificate 177502, issued in the name of Alan Craig Brown, effective November 5, 2024. The permanent revocation of Brown's educator certificate 177502 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 Board of Education

s/David C. O'Shields
David C. O'Shields, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
November 5, 2024