

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
COURTNEY LAROY SANDERS
OCTOBER 11, 2018**

**LICENSURE ACTION
CASE NO.:
LA-18-025**

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on October 11, 2018, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) heard the request to grant a waiver of the disqualifying offense to allow the issuance of a teaching license for Courtney Laroy Sanders pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410(c). Based upon the testimony and evidence presented, and in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

I. Findings of Fact


- a. The Department received information that on August 29, 1995, Courtney Laroy Sanders (Educator Sanders), was found guilty at trial of Sexual Abuse in the First Degree; which is a disqualifying offense for a teacher licensing under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410.
- b. Educator Sanders was notified that he was found guilty of the disqualifying offenses, and had thirty (30) days to request a waiver hearing on the revocation of his license.
- c. Educator Sanders requested a hearing regarding the revocation of his license.
- d. The Board considered:
 - i. The educator's age at the time of the offense;
 - ii. The circumstances surrounding the offense;

- iv. The educator's subsequent work history;
 - v. The educator's employment and character references; and
 - vi. Other evidence demonstrating that the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of school children or school personnel.
- e. A motion was made to grant Educator Sanders's request for a waiver. The motion carried.

II. Conclusions of Law

- a. The State Board of Education may consider a true report in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry or certain enumerated offenses as a disqualification for licensing. See Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-17-410(c), 6-17-410(d) (A) (5) and 6-17-411. This includes offenses which have been expunged, sealed, and pardoned by the governor.
- b. Upon consideration of the evidence presented at the meeting and pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-410 and 25-15-201 et seq., the Arkansas State Board of Education denies the Department's recommendation to not issue Educator Sanders's a teaching license and waives Educator Sanders' disqualifying offense for the purposes of licensing and employment eligibility. If Educator Sanders otherwise meets the requirements for licensing, the Department may issue him a license.
- c. Courtney Laroy Sanders's request for a waiver of the disqualifying offenses is granted.
- d. This Order shall become a permanent entry in the licensure file of the educator.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education