

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF:
MARK EDWARD HOBSON
JULY 12, 2018**

**LICENSURE ACTION
CASE NO.: LA-18-009**

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

At its regular meeting on July 12, 2018, the Arkansas State Board of Education (Board) heard the request for nonrenewal of the teaching license of Mark Edward Hobson pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410(c). Based upon the evidence presented, 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. Educator Hobson holds a teaching license that expired December 31, 2017.
- b. The Department received information on June 21, 2017, that Mark Edward Hobson (Educator Hobson) had a true finding in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry.
- c. On May 1, 2018, the Department notified Educator Hobson that he was ineligible for licensure and employment in Arkansas public school pursuant to Ark. Code Annotated § 6-17-410 et seq. Additionally, the Department notified Educator Hobson of his right to request that the Board waive his disqualification.
- d. Educator Hobson received the notice dated May 1, 2018 on May 5, 2018.
- e. Educator Hobson did not request a waiver hearing.
- f. The Department recommended nonrenewal of Educator Hobson's license.
- g. The Board considered:

- i. The educator's age at the time of the offense;
 - ii. The circumstances surrounding the offense;
 - iii. The length of time since the offense;
 - iv. The educator's subsequent work history;
 - v. The educator's employment and character references;
 - vi. Other evidence demonstrating that the applicant does not pose a threat to the health or safety of school children or school personnel; and
 - vii. Other relevant evidence.
- h. During the July 12, 2018 meeting, the Board made a motion to accept the Department's recommendation for nonrenewal of Educator Hobson's license. 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. Pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410(c), "The state board shall not issue a first-time license nor renew an existing license and shall revoke any existing license not up for renewal of any person who has a true report in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry or has pled guilty or nolo contendere to or has been found guilty of" one of the criminal offenses enumerated in Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410(c).

III. Order

- a. 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 Board accepts the Department's recommendation to deny waiver of Educator Hobson's disqualification.
- b. The Department shall not renew Educator Hobson's license. Educator Hobson shall be ineligible for licensure
- c. This order shall become a permanent entry in Educator Hobson's licensure file.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Dr. Jay Barth, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education