

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

IN RE THE MATTER OF
Name GENESE OBIAGA
Date 11/10/2022

LICENSURE ACTION
CASE NO.:
LA-23-001

At its regular meeting on November 10, 2022, the Arkansas State Board of Education (“Board”) considered the matter of Genese Obiaga (“Educator Obiaga”) concerning a disqualifying offense. Based upon the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

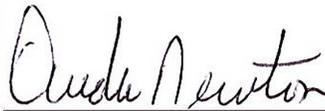
I. Findings of Fact:

- a. The Division received information that Educator Obiaga true report on the Child Maltreatment Registry which is a disqualifying offense for teacher renewal under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-17-410(c).
- b. Educator Obiaga was notified of the disqualifying offense, and had thirty (30) days to request a waiver hearing on the disqualifying offense.
- c. Educator Obiaga did request a hearing.
- d. 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; 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 and seconded to deny waiver request but allow reinstatement of license once applicant’s name is removed from the Child Maltreatment Registry. The motion carried.

II. Conclusions of Law

- a. The State Board of Education may consider the enumerated offenses as a disqualification for licensing including a true finding and placement on the Child Maltreatment Central Registry. 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., Educator Obiaga's disqualifying offense is waiver denied, but allows reinstatement upon removal from Child Maltreatment Registry.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Ouida Newton, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education