

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Rita M.F. Pangalangan
Certificate 173701

ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 12, 2023. On October 17, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Rita M. F. Pangalangan a notice via regular and certified mail for the revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate. Ms. Pangalangan received the notice, as evidenced by signed postal receipt. After considering the evidence presented, and pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-280 (2016), the State Board voted to permanently revoke Ms. Pangalangan's educator certificate 173701, effective December 12, 2023.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Pangalangan holds a suspended South Carolina educator certificate and has over twenty-five years of teaching experience. At the time of her arrest, Ms. Pangalangan was employed by the Colleton County School District (District). She resigned from the District, effective August 13, 2019.

The State Board summarily suspended Ms. Pangalangan's educator certificate on August 20, 2019, due to her arrest for the murder of her 13 year old daughter. She was subsequently charged with further crimes, including infliction of great bodily injury upon a child.

On September 1, 2023, a jury found Ms. Pangalangan guilty of both charges. She was sentenced to 37 years for murder and a concurrent 20 years for the abuse charge. These charges are felonies defined as violent crimes under S.C. Code Ann. § 16-1-60 and crimes that shall result in permanent revocation of an educator's certification, pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-280.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Ms. Pangalangan's educator certificate 173701, effective December 12, 2023.

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 "incompetence; willful neglect of duty; willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education; unprofessional conduct; drunkenness; cruelty; crime against the law of this State or the United States; immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; dishonesty; evident unfitness for position for which employed; or sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016).

The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE supports its determination that just cause exists to permanently revoke education certificate 173701, issued in the name of Rita M. F. Pangalangan, effective December 12, 2023. The permanent revocation of Ms. Pangalangan's educator certificate 173701 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/Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D.
Crystal F. Stapleton, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 12, 2023