

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Charles W. Ulmer
Certificate 904963

Order of Summary Suspension

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 30, 2025. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2020), § 59-5-10 (2020), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Charles W. Ulmer, educator certificate 904963, as a result of his arrest on thirteen counts of felony torture/ill treatment of animals and one count of felony criminal conspiracy.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Ulmer may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students, who may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Ulmer's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Ulmer of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Ulmer holds a South Carolina educator certificate and has over eleven years of educator experience. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Ulmer was not employed by a South Carolina School District.

According to arrest warrants, on September 25, 2024, it is alleged that Mr. Ulmer and another actor agreed that they would enter a property and poison a cat colony. On October 4,

2024, Mr. Ulmer and his co-conspirator placed plates of tuna fish laced with pesticide and supply water laced with fungicide, with the express intent to kill the felines, knowing that ingestion of these substances would cause an agonizing death. Thirteen cats and multiple other wildlife were killed as a result of Mr. Ulmer's conduct.

The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of this allegation of misconduct, Mr. Ulmer may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students who may be under his instruction, and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Ulmer's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Ulmer of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2021). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2020), "If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-5-10 (2020) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Mr. Ulmer's unprofessional conduct, crime against the law of this State or the United States, and evident unfitness for the position for which employed, due to his arrest for thirteen felony counts of torture/ill treatment of animals, and one felony count of criminal conspiracy, there is reason to believe Mr. Ulmer may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and emergency action is required.

Accordingly, the educator certificate of Charles W. Ulmer, certificate number 904963, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Ulmer of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/Rita Allison
Rita Allison, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
January 30, 2025