

BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of
the Application of
Tera Stanton

KSDE No. 23-PPC-33

FINAL ORDER

NOW, on this 9th day of January 2024, the above-captioned matter comes for consideration by the Kansas State Board of Education (Board). Appearing for the Board are Chairwoman, Melanie Haas, and members, Betty Arnold, Dennis Hershberger, Michelle Dombrosky, Cathy Hopkins, Deena Horst, Jim McNiece, Ann Mah, Jim Porter and Danny Zeck.

WHEREUPON the Professional Practices Commission (Commission) considered the matter on November 3, 2023. Tera Stanton appeared not. The Kansas State Department of Education appeared through its attorney, R. Scott Gordon. After reviewing the evidence, the Commission voted **6 – 0**, to recommend the Board deny Tera Stanton's application for an emergency substitute license.

WHEREUPON the Board reviewed the Commission's Initial Order. The Board adopted the Commission's findings of fact and conclusions of law by a vote of **10 – 0**.

All findings set forth in the Commission's Initial Order attached hereto are incorporated by reference and made a part of this Final Order as though fully set forth at length herein.

IT IS THEREFORE CONCLUDED by the Kansas State Board of Education that Tera Stanton's application for an emergency substitute license is denied.

This Final Order is made and entered this 9th day of January 2024.

Kansas State Board of Education



BY: Melanie Haas, Chairwoman
Signed January 10, 2024

NOTICE TO LICENSEE/APPLICANT

This is a Final Order and is effective upon service.

To request reconsideration of this order, you must file a Petition for Reconsideration with the Secretary to the State Board of Education, at the address below, within 15 days after service of this Final Order. The Petition must state the specific grounds upon which relief is requested.

To request a stay of effectiveness of this order, you must file a Petition for Stay with the Secretary to the State Board of Education at the address below. A petition can be filed until the time which a petition for judicial review would no longer be timely.

To seek judicial review of a Final Order, you must file a petition in the District Court as authorized by K.S.A. 77-601, *et seq.* within 30 days following the service of the Final Order. Filing a Petition for Reconsideration is not a prerequisite for seeking judicial review. A copy of any Petition for Judicial Review must be served upon the Secretary to the State Board of Education at the address below.

Deborah Bremer
Secretary, Kansas State Board of Education
Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson Ave. Suite 600N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

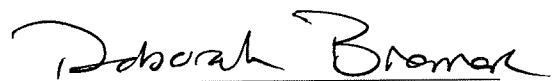
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 10th day of January, 2024, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was mailed by U.S. Mail to:

Tera Stanton
438 N. Kansas Avenue
Olathe, Kansas 66061

And via interoffice mail to:

R. Scott Gordon
Kansas State Department of Education
900 SW Jackson Street, Ste. 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612



Deborah Bremer, Secretary
Kansas State Board of Education

**BEFORE THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION**

In the Matter of
the Application of
Tera Stanton

PPC No. 23-PPC-33

INITIAL ORDER

The above-captioned case comes on for hearing before the Professional Practices Commissioner (“Commission”) of the Kansas State Board of Education (State Board) upon the Complaint filed by the Kansas State Department of Education (“KSDE”) seeking denial of Tera Stanton’s [Applicant] application.

The hearing on this matter was held on November 3, 2023. Appearing for the Commission were chairperson, Jennifer Holt, and members, Aaron Edwards, Leigh Ann Rogers, Ricardo Sanchez, Carey Spaulding, Christy Ziegler. The KSDE appeared by and through General Counsel, R. Scott Gordon. Applicant did not appear.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Applicant has applied for an emergency substitute license.
2. On March 6, 2014, Applicant was substantiated by the Department for Children and Families for physical abuse of a minor child. The finding means that a reasonable person weighing the facts and circumstances would decide it is more likely than not the alleged perpetrators actions or inactions met the abuse/neglect definition per Kansas state law. Applicant has been placed on the Kansas Child Abuse/Neglect Central Registry.
3. The substantiated allegations of physical abuse of a minor child stem from Applicant's actions while she was employed by Kiddi Kollege Daycare.
4. Persons whose names appear on the Central Registry are not permitted by law to work, reside, or regularly volunteer in child care homes or facilities licensed or regulated by the Kansas Department for Health and Environment ("KDHE") or the Kansas Department for Children and Families Foster Care and Residential Facility Licensing.
5. On July 19, 2023, the Kansas State Department of Education filed a formal Complaint requesting the denial of Applicant’s application for a teaching license. The Complaint was mailed by standard and by certified mail to her last known address. According to USPS tracking, the certified complaint was delivered to that address.
6. Licensee did not respond to the Complaint. She filed no answer and did not request a hearing.

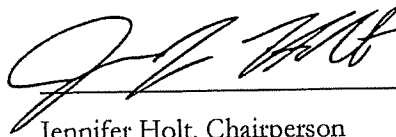
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Kansas State Board of Education (State Board) is responsible for the general supervision of Kansas education, including the certification and licensure of teachers. Kan. Const., Art. VI and K.S.A. 72-255.
2. One of the obvious goals of education is to “instill respect for the law.” Hainline v. Bond, 250 Kan. 217 (1992). An educator is a role model. Hainline at 224.
3. Teaching and school administration are professions with all the similar rights, responsibilities and privileges accorded other legally recognized professions. K.S.A. 72-2308.
4. Applicant did not deny any allegations of the Complaint, nor did she provide any evidence of remorse, rehabilitation, or recognition of the wrongfulness of her actions.
5. The Kansas State Board of Education may deny a license of any teacher for misconduct or other just cause. K.A.R. 91-22-1a.
6. A party may be served by mailing a notice to the person’s last known address. K.A.R. 77-531.
7. If a party fails to participate in the adjudicative process, the party may be found to have conceded to the outcome requested by the filed complaint.

THEREFORE the Professional Practices Commission recommends to the State Board, by a vote of 6-0, that Applicant’s application for an emergency substitute license is denied, based on substantiated allegations of physical abuse of a minor child and for failure to participate in the administrative proceedings.

This Initial Order is made and entered this November, 2023.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES COMMISSION



Jennifer Holt, Chairperson

Order signed on November 29, 2023.

NOTICE TO APPLICANT

This Order is not a Final Order and is required to be reviewed by the Kansas State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act. The State Board will review all issues. Notice of review with the specific date and time will be provided to the parties within 15 days of the review.

You may submit to the State Board for its consideration as part of its review of the Initial Order a written brief citing legal authority as to why the above recommendation should not be accepted. You must file the brief with the State Board Secretary at the address indicated below within ten calendar days after service of the Initial Order for transmittal to the State Board. You must also make any request for oral argument at that time.

Deborah Bremer
Secretary, Kansas State Board of Education
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 600
Topeka, KS 66612

Response briefs are due within ten calendar days after service of the legal brief upon the opposing party. Any reply brief is due five calendar days after service of any response brief upon the opposing party. Any response or reply briefs must also be filed with the State Board Secretary at the address indicated above.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 6th day of December, 2023, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing was filed with the Secretary for the Kansas State Board of Education, one (1) copy was mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested; and one (1) copy was mailed by first-class prepaid postage mail, to:

Tera Stanton
438 N. Kansas Avenue
Olathe, Kansas 66061

And via interoffice mail to:

R. Scott Gordon
Kansas State Department of Education
900 SW Jackson Street, Suite 102
Topeka, Kansas 66612

marisa Seele
Marisa Seele
Secretary, Professional Practices Commission