

Erica Wilson
Denial

The Background:

Prior History: N/A

Facts: On May 9, 2021, Ms. Wilson submitted an application for a Tennessee educator license. In April 2021, Ms. Wilson was indicted on sexual assault charges involving a student in Georgia. Ms. Wilson has a matter pending before the Georgia Department of Education relating to these criminal charges. A court date has not been set.

Applicable Rule

/Law: 0520-02-03-.09(1)(k) defines Good Cause as conduct that calls into question the fitness of an educator to hold a license including, but not limited to, violation of any provision in the Teacher Code of Ethics as contained in T.C.A. §§ 49- 5-1001, et seq.

0520-02-03-.09(3)(i) provides that the Board may revoke, suspend, formally reprimand, or refuse to issue or renew an educator’s license for other good cause as defined in subparagraph (1)(k) of this rule.

0520-02-03-.09(8)(a) provides if the individual indicates an affirmative answer on the personal affirmation section of the application for a Tennessee educator license, the individual shall show why the license should be issued despite the individual’s affirmative answers. Issuance of a license is considered on a case-by-case basis and the burden of proof rests with the individual applying for the license. In the case of a felony conviction, the individual shall also show that any sentence imposed, including any pre-trial diversion or probationary period has been completed. An application for issuance of a license may be denied if an action against the individual’s license has been taken or is pending in another state.

Status: Respondent was notified by certified mail of the Board’s intent to **deny her application for a Tennessee educator license** based upon these findings. Respondent was also provided Board policy with respect to requesting permission to speak on her behalf regarding her Tennessee educator license application. Respondent received said notice.

Board Action Consistency Considerations:

N/A

The Recommendation:

The Board staff recommends that Ms. Wilson's Tennessee educator licensure application be denied.