

BEFORE THE KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING

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In the Matter of)		
RICKY FAUCETT #4785))	Case No. 2021-017	8
)		

SUMMARY ORDER OF REVOCATION

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537

The above-captioned matter comes on for action by the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (Commission) through a summary proceeding under the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act, K.S.A. 77-537, regarding the law enforcement certification of RICKY FAUCETT (Respondent).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 1. The Commission granted Respondent a full-time law enforcement certification, certification number 4785.
- Respondent was employed as a full-time law enforcement officer with the Frontenac Police Department (FPD) from October 1, 2016, to June 8, 2021.
 Respondent began employment as a law enforcement officer in Kansas in 1994.
- A mother and her seven-year-old child went to the FPD to make a report.Respondent met with them and was told that the child disclosed that her

uncle had touched her on her genitalia. Respondent referred the case to another officer for further investigation. Respondent knew the child and was friendly with her uncle. Respondent was directed not to discuss the investigation with the child's uncle or his family.

- 4. After the child met with the investigating officer, Respondent asked the officer what the child disclosed. Respondent was given a very specific detail regarding a wooden spoon. Respondent made statements to the investigating officer that he did not believe that the child's uncle would have touched her in a sexual manner.
- 5. A few days later, Respondent contacted the investigating officer. Respondent stated he had spoken to the uncle's parents, who indicated that they had used a wooden spoon to spank the uncle, and that the child must have used that information to create her story. Respondent also stated that the uncle denied touching the child and offered to take a polygraph examination. The investigating officer was concerned that Respondent had disclosed information to the uncle and his family that could discredit the child's account. The investigating officer notified his command staff of Respondent's phone call. An internal investigation was initiated.
- 6. During the internal investigation, Respondent denied knowing anything about the wooden spoon. Several days later, Respondent was called in for an interview in which he again denied knowing anything about a wooden spoon. Respondent also denied speaking to the uncle's family about the case. A day after the interview, Respondent contacted his supervisors and confessed that he knew about the spoon all along and admitted that he had lied in the interview.
- 7. Based on the information in paragraphs three through six, a Commission interview with Respondent was necessary to determine his continued suitability for law enforcement.

8. Commission Investigator George Brown determined that an in-person interview was necessary with Respondent. Investigator Brown was notified through Respondent's attorney that Respondent "has no intention to participate in this interview."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

<u>Unprofessional Conduct – Dishonesty in Official Communication</u>

- 9. Pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5616(b)(7), the Commission may revoke the certification of any police or law enforcement officer who has engaged in unprofessional conduct as defined by rules and regulations of the Commission.
- 10. K.A.R. 106-2-3(j)(1) defines unprofessional conduct as, except for a legitimate law enforcement purpose, intentionally using a false or deceptive statement in any official document or official communication.
- 11. Respondent was intentionally dishonest in the FPD investigation. His dishonesty was not related to a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Failure to Cooperate in Commission Investigation

- 12. Pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5616(b)(3), the Commission may revoke the certification of a police or law enforcement officer who provides false information or otherwise fails to cooperate in a Commission investigation to determine a person's continued suitability for law enforcement certification.
- 13. Respondent failed to cooperate in a Commission investigation to determine his continued suitability for law enforcement certification.

Good Moral Character

14. Pursuant to K.S.A. 74-5616(b)(1) the Commission may revoke the certification of a police or law enforcement officer who fails to meet and maintain the requirements of K.S.A. 74-5605 or 74-5607a, and amendments thereto.

- 15. K.S.A. 74-5605(b)(5) states that each applicant for certification shall be of good moral character to warrant the public trust in the applicant as a police officer or law enforcement officer.
- 16. K.A.R. 106-2-4(a) defines good moral character as including the personal traits or qualities of integrity, honesty, upholding the laws of the state and nation, conduct that warrants the public trust, and upholding the oath required for certification as specified in K.A.R. 106-3-6.
- 17. Pursuant to K.A.R. 106-2-4(b), any single incident or event may suffice to show that a law enforcement officer has failed to maintain good moral character.
- 18. Respondent's conduct shows that he lacks the personal qualities of integrity, honesty, conduct that warrants the public trust, and upholding the oath required for certification.

Summary Proceedings

19. Under K.S.A. 77-537, the Commission may conduct these summary proceedings, subject to Respondent's request for a hearing. The Commission finds that the use of summary proceedings in these circumstances does not violate any provisions of law and the protection of the public interest does not require the Commission to give notice and opportunity to participate to any person other than Respondent.

ORDER

Based on the Statement of Facts and Conclusions of Law, the Commission orders that the Kansas Law Enforcement Officer Certification of RICKY FAUCETT be revoked.

ACCORDINGLY, THE KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS'
STANDARDS AND TRAINING CERTIFICATE OF RICKY FAUCETT
IS HEREBY REVOKED.

FURTHER, Respondent is ordered to surrender and return to the Commission all evidence of his certification as a law enforcement officer.

DATED this and day of March, 2022.

KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING

Jeff Herrig

Chair, Investigative Committee

NOTICE OF RELIEF FROM THIS SUMMARY ORDER

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537, the Summary Order is subject to your request for a hearing. If you desire a hearing, you must direct a written request for a hearing to the Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training, 1999 N. Amidon, Suite 350, Wichita, Kansas 67203. This written request must be filed within fifteen (15) days from the date indicated in the Certificate of Service below. If a written request for hearing is not so made, this Summary Order becomes final and effective upon the expiration of the time for requesting a hearing.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on the 3rd day of March, 2022, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Summary Order of Revocation was deposited in the United States mail, certified, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, and deposited in the United States mail, first class postage prepaid, with tracking, addressed to:

RICKY FAUCETT

and a courtesy copy was deposited in the United States mail, first-class postage prepaid, addressed to:

Frederick R. "Rick" Smith P.O. Box 598 Pittsburg, KS 66762-0598

Staff

Kansas Commission on Peace Officers'

Standards and Training