

BEFORE THE KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING

1999 N. AMIDON, SUITE 350 • WICHITA, KANSAS 67203 Tel (316) 832-9906 • Fax (316) 832-9679

| In the Matter of |) | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--|
| CHAD JENNINGS #26557 |))) | Case No. 2020-0178 | |
| |) | | |

SUMMARY ORDER OF REVOCATION

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-537

The above-captioned matter comes on for Commission action through a summary proceeding under the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act, K.S.A. 77-537, regarding the law enforcement certification of CHAD JENNINGS (Respondent).

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 1. The Kansas Commission on Peace Officers' Standards and Training (Commission) granted full-time certification to Respondent, certification number 26557.
- 2. Respondent was employed as a full-time law enforcement officer with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) from December 12, 2011, to June 26, 2020.
- 3. A JCSO deputy, J.S. held social gatherings at his residence. The gatherings were attended by his girlfriend, E.F., other JCSO deputies, courthouse employees, and defense attorneys.
- 4. On May 11, 2020, J.S. reported to the JCSO that, during a gathering hosted by J.S., Respondent raped E.F. A professional standards investigation was initiated. The

investigation revealed allegations that marijuana was used by some attendees at the gatherings.

- 5. The JCSO interviewed Respondent on June 24, 2020. Respondent admitted to having sexual intercourse with E.F. at one of the gatherings, but claimed it was consensual. During the interview, Respondent repeatedly denied using marijuana during the time he was employed with the JCSO. When confronted with statements from individuals who had witnessed Respondent use marijuana, Respondent insisted they were lying. The JCSO did not believe Respondent's statements regarding personal marijuana use and scheduled him for a polygraph examination. During the examination, Respondent admitted that he had smoked marijuana four to five times in the previous year.
- 6. Based on the information in paragraphs three through five, an in-person Commission interview with Respondent was necessary to determine his continued suitability for law enforcement certification. Commission Investigator Michael Oliver notified Respondent of his scheduled interview. Respondent contacted Investigator Oliver to cancel the interview and stated he would speak with his attorney. On July 18, 2023, Investigator Oliver contacted Respondent to reschedule the interview. Respondent notified Investigator Oliver that he smoked marijuana and did not wish to participate in the interview. Respondent stated, "respectfully, I don't want to talk to you."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Unprofessional Conduct

7. 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.

<u>Unprofessional Conduct – False Statement in Official Communication</u>

- 8. K.A.R. 106-2-3(j)(1) defines unprofessional conduct as, except for a legitimate law enforcement purpose, intentionally using a false statement in any official document or official communication.
- 9. Pursuant to K.A.R. 106-2-1(g), "Official document or official communication" means information created or transferred, in any medium, in the course of performing the duties of an officer required by law or by policies or procedures of an appointing authority or in response to an internal or criminal investigation conducted by a law enforcement agency or training school.
- 10. Respondent was repeatedly and intentionally dishonest about his marijuana use during an internal investigation conducted by a law enforcement agency. Respondent only told the truth once a polygraph examination was administered. Respondent's dishonesty was not in furtherance of a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Unprofessional Conduct – Using Controlled Substance

- 11. K.A.R. 106-2-3(j)(5) defines unprofessional conduct as, except for a legitimate law enforcement purpose, using any controlled substance that is unlawful to possess, as defined by K.S.A. 21-5706, and amendments thereto.
- 12. Respondent used a controlled substance, specifically marijuana, that is unlawful to possess pursuant to K.S.A. 21-5706. His use was not related to a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

Failure to Cooperate in Commission Investigation

13. 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.

14. Respondent failed to submit to a Commission interview and therefore failed to cooperate in a Commission investigation to determine his continued suitability for law enforcement certification.

Good Moral Character

- 15. 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.
- 16. K.S.A. 74-5605(b)(5) states that each applicant for certification shall be of good moral character sufficient to warrant the public trust in the applicant as a police officer or law enforcement officer.
- 17. 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.
- 18. Pursuant to K.A.R. 106-2-4(b), any single incident or event may suffice to show that a licensee lacks or has failed to maintain good moral character.
- 19. Respondent's conduct shows that he has failed to maintain good moral character sufficient to warrant the public trust in him as a law enforcement officer.

Summary Proceedings

20. 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 above Statement of Facts and Conclusions of Law, the Commission orders that the Kansas Law Enforcement Officer Certification of CHAD JENNINGS be revoked.

ACCORDINGLY, THE KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS'
STANDARDS AND TRAINING CERTIFICATION OF CHAD JENNINGS 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 15 day of Novambor, 2023.

KANSAS COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICERS' STANDARDS AND TRAINING

feff 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 15th day of 1000 2023, a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Summary Order of Revocation was deposited in the United States mail, with tracking, postage prepaid, addressed to:

CHAD JENNINGS

Rose Kelley

Kansas Commission on Peace Officers'

Standards and Training