

Executive Order No. 2015-20

WHEREAS, the Grand Jurors of Dorchester County indicted Christopher David Nisbet, Coroner of Dorchester County, on October 1, 2015, on a count of Misconduct in Office for willfully and unlawfully breaching his duty of accountability to the public by failing to properly and faithfully discharge his said duty and for misusing his office to effect an unlawful arrest on a private citizen against the peace and dignity of this State and in violation of the Common Law of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Christopher David Nisbet is an officer of a political subdivision of the State, and Article VI, Section 8 of the South Carolina Constitution provides that “[a]ny officer of the State or its political subdivisions... who has been indicted by a grand jury for a crime involving moral turpitude... may be suspended by the Governor until he shall have been acquitted;” and

WHEREAS, South Carolina law recognizes that “moral turpitude implies something immoral itself ...,” such as “an act of baseness, vileness, or depravity in the private and social duties which a man owes to his fellow man, or to society in general,” *State v. Horton*, 248 S.E.2d 263 (1978), and the above-referenced indictment includes a crime that involves moral turpitude; and

WHEREAS, a certified true copy of the indictment against Christopher David Nisbet has been provided to me; and

WHEREAS, Section 17-5-50 of the South Carolina Code of Laws provides that if a coroner is suspended by the Governor upon the coroner’s indictment, the chief magistrate of that county shall act as coroner until the suspended coroner is reinstated or until a coroner is elected and qualifies in the next general election for coroners, whichever occurs first.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of South Carolina, I hereby suspend Christopher David Nisbet from the Office of Coroner of Dorchester County until such time as he shall be formally acquitted or convicted, and I further direct the Chief Magistrate of Dorchester County to act as coroner until Christopher David Nisbet is reinstated or until a coroner is elected and qualifies in accordance with state law.

This action in no manner addresses the question of the guilt or innocence of Christopher David Nisbet and should not be construed as an expression of any opinion one way or another on such question.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

**GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE
GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
CAROLINA, THIS 1st DAY OF OCTOBER,
2015.**

**NIKKI R. HALEY
Governor**