

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Laurinda L. Wilson,)
)
Certificate 224351)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 12, 2011. On September 30, 2010, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Laurinda L. Wilson a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested. After several unsuccessful attempts to serve Ms. Wilson by certified mail, SCDE requested that the Greenville County Sheriff's Office personally serve notice on Ms. Wilson. On February 16, 2011, SCDE received an Affidavit of Service from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office stating that Ms. Wilson was personally served with the notice letter on February 15, 2011. Ms. Wilson did not contact the SCDE to request a hearing within the time specified in the notice and is now in default.

Ms. Wilson has an outstanding balance of \$2,500 on her loan with the State of South Carolina obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA). Ms. Wilson has failed to comply with the terms of the loan. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Wilson's certificate until she repays the full amount owed on her outstanding loan with the State of South Carolina obtained through CERRA. Upon full payment of the balance due and payment of the reinstatement fee, the SCDE's Office of Educator Certification shall reinstate Ms. Wilson's educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Wilson holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate and has over eight years of teaching experience. On March 14, 2008, Ms. Wilson signed a loan agreement with the State of

South Carolina to obtain a loan of \$2,500 to pay for the costs of applying for certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). One of the terms of the loan agreement provided that the loan recipient would be obligated to repay the entire loan amount, \$2,500, if after application to participate in the NBPTS certification program, the loan recipient did not complete the process of obtaining NBPTS certification or return the program materials within the specified time period. Ms. Wilson did not comply with the loan agreement terms.

On September 30, 2010, the SCDE sent Ms. Wilson a notice of her right to a hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by certified mail, restricted delivery, return receipt requested. The notice letter was returned to SCDE marked unclaimed. On November 6, 2010, SCDE sent a request to the Greenville County Postmaster for address verification. On December 6, 2010, the Postmaster sent SCDE a verification of Ms. Wilson's address. On February 8, 2011, SCDE sent a request to the Greenville County Sheriff's Office (Sheriff) for service on Ms. Wilson. On February 16, 2011, SCDE received an Affidavit of Service from the Sheriff's Office stating that Ms. Wilson was personally served with the notice letter on February 15, 2011. Ms. Wilson did not contact the SCDE within the fifteen day timeframe and is now in default.

Ms. Wilson has an outstanding balance of \$2500 on her loan with the State of South Carolina obtained through CERRA and has failed to comply with the terms of the loan agreement. After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Wilson's certificate until she repays the full amount owed on her outstanding loan with the State of South Carolina obtained through CERRA. Upon full payment of the balance due and payment of the reinstatement fee, the SCDE's Office of Educator Certification shall reinstate Ms. Wilson's educator certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). The State Board finds that the SCDE has presented sufficient evidence to support its decision to suspend Ms. Wilson's educator certificate from the date of this Order until she has satisfied her financial obligation to the State of South Carolina, as established in the loan agreement referenced above. Upon full payment of the

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balance due and payment of the reinstatement fee, the SCDE's Office of Educator Certification shall reinstate Ms. Wilson's educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: *Gerrita Postlewait*
Gerrita Postlewait, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 12, 2011