

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)
)
of the Educator Certificate of)
)
Franklin Willis Cleveland)
)
Certificate 160866)
_____)

ORDER OF INDEFINITE SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 12, 2014, regarding the indefinite suspension of the educator certificate for Franklin Willis Cleveland in light of his failure to repay a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) loan.

FINDINGS OF FACT

On May 1, 2006, Mr. Cleveland signed a promissory note with the State of South Carolina to obtain a loan of \$2,500.00 to complete the NBPTS. The loan was obtained through the Center for Teacher Education, Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA). Subsequently, Mr. Cleveland failed to complete the NBPTS program pursuant to the terms of the agreement, and was therefore obligated to repay the loan. Thereafter, Mr. Cleveland failed to satisfy the terms of the loan and, as of the date of this Order, is in breach and default of the loan agreement, owing an amount of \$2,500.00.

On August 28, 2014, the SCDE sent Mr. Cleveland a notice of his unprofessional conduct resulting from his failure to repay his NBPTS loan, and the possible indefinite suspension of his South Carolina educator certificate, via certified mail.

On September 5, 2014, Mr. Cleveland received the notice of possible suspension, as evidenced by a return receipt. Subsequently, Mr. Cleveland did not request a hearing on the matter within fifteen days, and, therefore, as of September 20, 2014, has waived his right to a hearing.

After considering the information presented by the SCDE, the State Board voted to suspend the educator certificate of Mr. Cleveland until full payment of his outstanding NBPTS loan in the amount of \$2,500.00 has been satisfied, along with any applicable reinstatement fees.

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 failure to repay a National Board Certification loan is unprofessional conduct. The State Board further finds that the SCDE has presented sufficient evidence to support the indefinite suspension of the educator certificate of Franklin Willis Cleveland, Certificate 160866, commencing immediately on the date of this Order, and continuing indefinitely unless and until he has satisfied his remaining financial obligation to the State of South Carolina, as established in the promissory note referenced above.

Upon confirmation of full payment of the balance due and payment of a reinstatement fee, the SCDE's Office of Educator Certification shall reinstate Mr. Cleveland's educator certificate.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:



Barry F. Bolen, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
November 12, 2014