

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Voluntary)
Surrender of the Educator)
Certificate of Elaine Corine Ledford)
Certificate 247642)

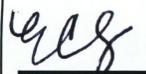
**CONSENT ORDER OF
PERMANENT VOLUNTARY
SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on September 12, 2012. On August 2, 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent a notice to Elaine Corine Ledford of her right to a hearing before the State Board by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery and regular mail. On August 6, 2012, Ms. Ledford received the notice as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. On August 8, 2012, Ms. Ledford contacted the SCDE and stated that she wished to discuss an alternative resolution to this matter. Ms. Ledford informed the SCDE that she had agreed to waive her right to a hearing and had agreed to enter into this Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of Ms. Ledford's educator certificate 247642.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Ledford holds a professional educator certificate and has less than one year of teaching experience. She has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Ledford was previously employed by Greenville County School District (District), as a Language Arts teacher at Hillcrest Middle School, until the Greenville County School Board approved her termination on October 25, 2011, with an effective termination date of October 26, 2011. Ms. Ledford's termination occurred as a result of the District's investigation into allegations that Ms. Ledford had previously engaged in inappropriate communications via text messaging with a student who was in her classroom during student teaching at Mauldin Middle School in 2009.

Elaine
Corine
Ledford
247642

Initial Here
8/24/12
Date

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Ms. Ledford agrees to the permanent surrender of her South Carolina educator certificate 247642 subject to the following conditions: (1) her educator certificate will become permanently invalid and revoked immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the voluntary surrender; (2) she has waived her right to a hearing and understands that the terms set forth are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and (3) she understands that the permanent surrender of her educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse as a permanent voluntary surrender and revocation with the reason stated as "unprofessional conduct."

Elaine Corine Ledford 247642
 Initial Here
8/24/12 Date

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

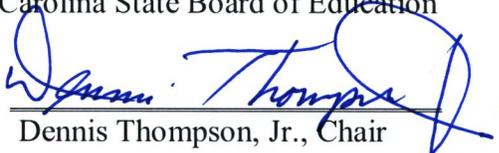
"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). Just cause includes: "Unprofessional conduct." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs 43-58 (Supp. 2011). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Ms. Ledford engaged in unprofessional conduct by engaging in inappropriate text messaging with a student who was in her classroom during student teaching at Mauldin Middle School. The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the permanent voluntary surrender of educator certificate 247642; issued under the name of Elaine Corine Ledford, and to permanently revoke and render permanently invalid Ms. Ledford's educator certificate effective September 12, 2012.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Elaine Corine Ledford, certificate 247642, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and revocation of the educator certificate of Elaine Corine Ledford, certificate 247642 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order with the reasons stated as "unprofessional conduct."

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

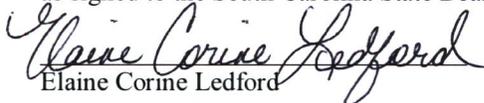
South Carolina State Board of Education

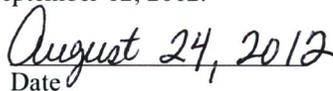
By:


Dennis Thompson, Jr., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
September 12, 2012

I, Elaine Corine Ledford, S.C. Educator Certificate 247642, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of education certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Agreement are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; I hereby freely, knowingly and voluntarily permanently surrender my educator certificate to the South Carolina State Board of Education. I hereby acknowledge that this permanent surrender shall have the same effect as a permanent revocation of my certificate. I knowingly forfeit and relinquish all right, title and privilege of holding myself out as and being able to practice as an educator in the public schools in the State of South Carolina. I agree that I will not serve as a volunteer or be employed as an educator, paraprofessional, aide, substitute teacher, band teacher, coach, or in any other position in a public school in the State of South Carolina, except where my duties as a parent are concerned. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the South Carolina State Board of Education on September 12, 2012.


Elaine Corine Ledford


Date