

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Permanent)
Voluntary Surrender and Revocation)
of the Educator Certificate of)
Allison Leigh Chilton)
Certificate 265887)

**CONSENT ORDER OF
PERMANENT
VOLUNTARY SURRENDER**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 14, 2018. On January 9, 2018, Ms. Chilton was charged with two felony counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 3rd degree, S.C. Code Ann. §16-3-655(C) (2017) and one felony count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor, S.C. Code Ann. §16-15-342 (2017). On January 12, 2018, the Chair of the State Board summarily suspended Ms. Chilton's educator certificate. On or about January 12, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent the summary suspension order and a notice letter to Ms. Chilton regarding the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina Educator Certificate. On January 18, 2018, Ms. Chilton's attorney requested a private hearing in this matter. Prior to the scheduling of the hearing, Ms. Chilton's counsel informed SCDE that Ms. Chilton had agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into a Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender effective August 14, 2018.

Allison
Leigh
Chilton
265887

Initial
Here

8/2/18
Date

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Chilton holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has over four years of teaching experience. Ms. Chilton was hired by Dorchester County School District Two (District) in 2013. She served as a special education teacher at Oakbrook Middle School (School). On January 2, 2018, the District placed Ms. Chilton on administrative leave following an allegation that she had exchanged inappropriate text messages with a student. She subsequently resigned her position with the District effective January 11, 2018.

On January 9, 2018, the Dorchester County Sheriff's Office charged Ms. Chilton with two felony counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, 3rd Degree, S.C. Code Ann. §16-3-

655(C) (2017) and one felony count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor, S.C. Code Ann. §16-15-342 (2017). In addition, on February 5, 2018, Ms. Chilton was also charged with one count of Criminal Sexual Conduct with Minor, or attempt, 2nd Degree, S.C. Code Ann. §16-3-655(B) (2017). The allegations underlying Ms. Chilton's first arrest consisted of inappropriate communications of a sexual nature with a 12-year-old female student from August 1, 2017 to December 29, 2017. Ms. Chilton confessed to kissing the student, and to exchanging text messages in reference to having a sexual relationship with the female student. Ms. Chilton denied the allegations that she was involved in a physical relationship with the female student and does not admit to guilt in the pending criminal charges.

Ms. Chilton agrees to the surrender of her South Carolina educator certificate 265877 subject to the following conditions: (1) her educator certificate will become invalid immediately upon the approval by the State Board of the Consent Order of Voluntary Surrender; (2) she has waived his right to notice and 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 voluntary surrender of her educator certificate will be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and the NASDTEC Clearinghouse

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 (2016); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). The State Board finds that Ms. Chilton engaged in unprofessional conduct and demonstrated evident unfitness for a position for which she is employed as a result of her inappropriate conduct and inappropriate communication with a minor female student. The evidence presented supports the State Board's decision to accept the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender of educator certificate 265887, issued under the name of Allison Leigh Chilton, effective August 14, 2018.

Now, therefore, it is ordered that the Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender is accepted and the educator certificate of Allison Leigh Chilton, certificate 265887, is hereby declared permanently invalid and permanently revoked. The permanent voluntary surrender and

Allison
Leigh
Chilton
265887

ALC

Initial
Here

8/2/18
Date

permanent revocation of the educator certificate of Allison Leigh Chilton, certificate 265887, shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: Sharon Wall *Sharon Wall* for
Sharon Wall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 14, 2018

I, Allison Leigh Chilton, S.C. Educator Certificate 265887, 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 Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review; and 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 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. I agree to the proposed Consent Order of Permanent Voluntary Surrender, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Consent Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education on August 14, 2018.

Allison Leigh Chilton
Allison Leigh Chilton

8/2/18
Date