

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Dana Helms Grow
Certificate 167767

CONSENT ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 12, 2022. On September 1, 2021, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, to Dana Helms Grow concerning the pending action against educator certificate 905869. After Ms. Grow received the notice, her legal counsel contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution. Ms. Grow agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Suspension of educator certificate 167767 for a period of two years. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Grow's educator certificate for a period of two years commencing on June 8, 2021 and ending on June 7, 2023.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Dana Helms Grow holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. Ms. Grow has over twenty-five years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. Ms. Grow was employed by the Charleston County School District (District) as a guidance counselor at Moultrie Middle School (School).

Ms. Grow was placed on administrative leave on June 19, 2020, following allegations she failed to carry out her obligations as a mandatory reporter. The District's investigation concluded that Ms. Grow failed to report information a teacher at the School shared with her regarding the sexual abuse of a student, as was required by Erin's Law and District policy. Ms. Grow's failure to report the matter as required by Erin's Law

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s/DHG
Initial
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stemmed from a significant misunderstanding of her obligations under the law. As a result of the incident, Ms. Grow was terminated by the District, effective September 21, 2020.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Suspension of Ms. Grow's educator certificate for a period of two years commencing on June 8, 2021 and ending on June 7, 2023.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

““The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Dana Helms Grow engaged in unprofessional conduct by failing to report an incident of sexual abuse of a student. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the suspension of Ms. Grow's educator certificate for a period of two years, commencing on June 8, 2021 and ending on June 7, 2023.

If Ms. Grow wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Ms. Grow shall be responsible for meeting all certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement and for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees.

The suspension of Ms. Grow's educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

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Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Dana Helms Grow, certificate 167767, is suspended for a period of two years, commencing on June 8, 2021 and ending on June 7, 2023.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

s/Alan Walters
Alan Walters., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
May 17, 2022

I, Dana Helms Grow, SC Educator Certificate 167767, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Suspension are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Suspension, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State Board for approval on April 12, 2022. I understand this Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter. If approved by the State Board, I give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/ Dana Helms Grow
Dana Helms Grow

4/1/2022
Date