

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the
Disciplinary Action of the
Educator Certificate of
Bridget Risinger Senterfeit
Certificate 179707

**BRIDGET RISINGER SENTERFEIT
CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND**

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 8, 2023. On March 1, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Bridget Risinger Senterfeit a notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Bridget Risinger Senterfeit regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 179707. After Ms. Senterfeit received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to discuss an alternative resolution in lieu of a hearing. Ms. Senterfeit has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand of educator certificate 179707. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Ms. Senterfeit's educator certificate.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Senterfeit holds a South Carolina educator certificate. She has over twenty-two years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Senterfeit was employed by the Lexington County School District Three as an educator at Batesburg Leesville Primary School (School).

Ms. Senterfeit admitted to having an alcoholic drink after school before returning to work for a school-sponsored music program on November 18, 2021. Several employees observed Ms. Senterfeit that evening and stated that she appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. After participating in the music program, Ms. Senterfeit was driven

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s/BS
Initial
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home by a coworker that evening due to concerns of intoxication by her colleagues. Ms. Senterfeit has completed an approved SCDE addictions assessment and provided documentation of successful completion of the assessment to the SCDE.

Ms. Senterfeit has agreed to waive her right to a hearing and resolve this disciplinary matter by entering into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, subject to the following terms: (1) a Public Reprimand shall be issued by the State Board, (2) the Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order, and (3) the Consent Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE's website and shall be maintained as a public record in the OGC. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand of Bridget Risinger Senterfeit's educator certificate.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board 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 "incompetence; willful neglect of duty; willful violation of the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education; unprofessional conduct; drunkenness; cruelty; crime against the law of this State or the United States; immorality; any conduct involving moral turpitude; dishonesty; evident unfitness for position for which employed; or sale or possession of narcotics." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2020); S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented demonstrates that Ms. Senterfeit engaged in unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, and crime against the law of this State or the United States due to consuming alcohol prior to a school sponsored music program. The State Board further finds that just cause exists to publicly reprimand Ms. Senterfeit's educator certificate.

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The public reprimand of Ms. Senterfeit's educator certificate 179707 shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Bridget Risinger Senterfeit, certificate 179707, is publicly reprimanded.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina Board of Education

s/Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D.

Crystal F. Stapleton, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
August 8, 2023

I, Bridget Risinger Senterfeit, SC Educator Certificate 179707, 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 Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack, or judicial review. I agree to the terms of this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and understand that this Order will be presented to the State board for approval on. 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 have the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "s/name" for required website publication.

s/ Bridget Risinger Senterfeit
Bridget Risinger Senterfeit

7/11/23
Date