

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2022-155

COMPLAINT FORM

COMPLAINANT: State Ethics Commission
ADDRESS: 201 Executive Center Drive
Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29210
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (803) 253-4192

RESPONDENT: Shaquantia M. McDaniels
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
TITLE: Former Director of Division, Institution, or
Facility – Department of Juvenile Justice

Section 8-13-1140, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires the filing of an updated Statement of Economic Interests for the previous calendar year annually thereafter prior to March 30. Records in the State Ethics Commission indicate that the Respondent was required to file the 2021 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by certified letters dated February 4, 2022 and April 22, 2022 as described in the attached. In addition, an email reminder was sent thirty days prior to the deadline. To date, a 2021 Statement of Economic Interests has not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1140, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

If there is a finding of probable cause, the following documents become public record: the complaint, the response (if any) by respondent, and the notice of hearing. If a hearing is to be held, the final order and all exhibits become public record. If no hearing is held following a finding of probable cause, the final disposition of the matter becomes public record.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Richland

Personally appeared before me Meghan L. Walker who, first being duly sworn, says that she has read and knows the contents of the above complaint and that the allegations contained therein, are true and correct to the best of her own knowledge, except for those matters therein based upon information and belief, and as to those she believes them to be true.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
1st day of December 2023

[REDACTED]
Meghan L. Walker, Executive Director

[REDACTED]
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 01/22/26

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192
ELECTRONIC COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
)	
IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
Complaint C2022-155)	
)	
State Ethics Commission)	NOTICE OF HEARING
Complainant.)	
)	
Shaquantia M. McDaniels)	
Respondent.)	
)	

The State Ethics Commission has determined that there is probable cause pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, in the above-captioned complaint. The Commission will convene a formal hearing into the matter in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i) & (j), Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.) on Thursday, June 15, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at the Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegation will be heard:

COUNT ONE
FAILURE TO FILE STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS
SECTION 8-13-1140, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Shaquantia M. McDaniels, Former Director of Division – Department of Juvenile Justice, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2021 Statement of Economic Interests, in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

You have the right to be represented by counsel, the right to call and examine witnesses, the right to introduce exhibits, and the right to cross-examine opposing witnesses. This hearing will be open to the public as required by Section 8-13-320(10)(j), Code of Laws, South Carolina,

1976, as amended. The procedures to be followed are set forth in the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 1-23-10, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976 as amended, the State Ethics Act, Section 8-13-100, et seq., Code of Laws, South Carolina, 1976, as amended, and State Ethics Commission Regulations, S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 52-707 (1997 Cum. Supp.).

A pre-hearing conference may be scheduled prior to the hearing to allow exchange of witness lists and evidence, marking of exhibits, and disposition of motions or pleadings. In the event you fail to appear, judgment by default will be rendered against you. If there are any questions concerning the above notice or hearing times, please contact the State Ethics Commission.



Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 4th day,
of October 2023.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Shaquantia M. McDaniels, 798 Stoneroot Drive, Columbia, SC 29229 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 11th day of October 2023, by **CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.



Rachael O'Bryan, Administrative Assistant
State Ethics Commission

Columbia, South Carolina

(803) 253-4192

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
))
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2022-155)
))
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant,)
))
Shaquantia M. McDaniels,)
Respondent.)
_____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on December 1, 2022. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Shaquantia M. McDaniels (Respondent) was considered by the Commission and probable cause was found to warrant an evidentiary hearing. Prior to the call of the case, Respondent agreed to entry of the following:

STATEMENTS OF FACT

1. Respondent served as a Deputy Administrative Official for the Department of Juvenile Justice (Department) from August 2018 through September 2021.
2. Respondent did not file a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) prior to assuming the official responsibilities of her position in 2018.
3. Prior to the filing of the Complaint, Respondent filed the following SEIs with the Commission:
 - a. 2018 SEI – filed on February 26, 2019
 - b. 2019 SEI – filed on March 30, 2020
 - c. 2020 SEI – filed on March 30, 2021
4. Respondent did not file a 2021 SEI on or before March 30, 2021.
5. In a February 4, 2022 certified letter mailed to 112 Falmouth Drive, Columbia, SC, the

Commission notified Respondent that her 2018, 2019, and 2020 SEIs were filed late and that her 2021 SEI had still not been filed. The letter further advised Respondent that a late-filing penalty of \$400.00 was being assessed against her (\$100.00 for each SEI) and that additional late-filing penalties would begin to accrue if she did not file her 2021 SEI within ten (10) days from her receipt of the letter. This letter was subsequently returned to the Commission as unclaimed.

6. In an April 22, 2022 certified letter mailed to 798 Stoneroot Drive, Columbia, SC, the Commission reiterated the aforementioned information regarding late-filed SEIs and late-filing penalties. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), this letter was delivered on April 25, 2022.
7. On April 27, 2022, Respondent telephoned the Commission. Commission staff advised Respondent that she needed to file her 2021 SEI to avoid additional late-filing penalties. Respondent informed Commission staff she left the Department in September 2021.
8. On May 5, 2022, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$10.00 per day.
9. On May 15, 2022, late-filing penalties began accruing at \$100.00 per day.
10. Following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent came into compliance having accrued the maximum late-filing penalty of \$5,000.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Statements of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. At all times relevant, Respondent was a “public employee” pursuant to Section 8-13-100(25).
Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.
2. Section 8-13-1140 provides, in relevant part:

A person required to file a [SEI] under this chapter annually shall file . . . an updated statement for the previous calendar year, no later than noon on March 30 . . .

3. Section 8-13-1510(A) provides:

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, a person required to file a report or statement under this chapter who files a late statement or report or fails to file a required statement or report must be assessed a civil penalty as follows: (1) a fine of one hundred dollars if the statement or report is not filed within five days after the established deadline provided by law in this chapter; and (2) after notice has been given by certified or registered mail that a required statement or report has not been filed, a fine of ten dollars per calendar day for the first ten days after notice has been given, and one hundred dollars for each additional calendar day in which the required statement or report is not filed, not exceeding five thousand dollars.

4. Section 8-13-130 allows the Commission to “levy an enforcement or administrative fee on a person who is in violation” of the Ethics Act.

DISCUSSION

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of violating Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file her 2021 SEI on or before March 30, 2021. Through this Consent Order, Respondent acknowledges she violated the Ethics Act when she failed to timely file the required SEI. As mitigation, Respondent states that she filed an SEI on or before March 30 during each year she was employed by the Department. The Commission notes that Respondent’s filing entries confirm that Respondent filed an SEI during the appropriate time frame each year; however, Respondent inadvertently selected the wrong report year each time she filed. Thus, Respondent asserts that when she was contacted in 2021 and advised to file a SEI, she believed she was already in compliance because she had filed an SEI on March 30, 2021. The Commission acknowledges that Respondent filed an SEI on this date. However, Respondent incorrectly selected 2020 as the report year rather than 2021. The Commission further notes that Respondent has been penalized (and has already paid) \$300 for her failure to timely file a 2018,

2019, and 2020 SEI separately from this complaint.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1140.
2. The Commission hereby adopts the Statements of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Discussion, and Disposition as agreed upon by the Respondent.

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues a written warning and orders the Respondent to pay the Commission, within six (6) months from receipt of this Order, a reduced late-filing penalty of \$100 for the 2021 SEI and an administrative fee of \$250, for a total of \$350. The remaining \$4,900 in accrued late-filing penalties is hereby waived.

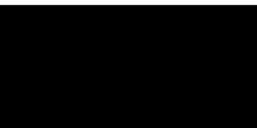
By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that she is not only admitting to violations of the Ethics Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$350 (less any money paid to the Commission) in the event she does not make full and timely payment as provided for in this Order. In that event, the Commission shall file a Judgment against Respondent in the Clerk of Court's Office in the County of Respondent's last known residence. Upon said filing, the Clerk shall enter this Order in the amount of \$350 (less any money paid to the Commission) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 25th DAY OF February 2024.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR



SHAQUANTIA M. MCDANIELS
RESPONDENT