

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
RECEIVED MAR 20 2023 AM 10:58

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:  
CASE NUMBER  
C 2023-038

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Clarence L. Stogner  
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]  
TITLE: Former Board Member – The Governor’s  
School of Science and Math

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 2019 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated December 19, 2022 as described in the attached. In addition, an email reminder was sent thirty days prior to the deadline. To date, a 2019 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  
20th day of March, 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 C2023-038 ) )  
) )  
State Ethics Commission ) **NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Complainant. ) )  
) )  
Clarence L. Stogner ) )  
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 19, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegations will be heard:

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

That Clarence L. Stogner, former Board Member of the South Carolina for the Governor’s School of Science and Math, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2019 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1140.

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

That Clarence L. Stogner, former Board Member of the South Carolina for the Governor’s

School of Science and Math, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 SEI, 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 3rd day,  
of ~~January~~ February 2025.

**Certificate of Service by Certified Mail**

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Clarence L. Stogner, 204 Kin Elder Way, Taylors, SC 29687 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2025, 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 C2023-038 )  
State Ethics Commission )  
Complainant. )  
Clarence L. Stogner )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**AMENDED  
NOTICE OF HEARING**

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, August 21, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegations will be heard:

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

That Clarence L. Stogner, former Board Member of the South Carolina for the Governor's School of Science and Math, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2019 Statement of Economic Interests (SEI), in violation of Section 8-13-1140.


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

That Clarence L. Stogner, former Board Member of the South Carolina for the Governor's

School of Science and Math, did in Richland County, fail to file a 2020 SEI, 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 20<sup>th</sup> day,  
of March 2025.

*Certificate of Service by Certified Mail*

I hereby certify that a copy of this **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on the RESPONDENT Clarence L. Stogner, 204 Kin Elder Way, Taylors, SC 29687 by depositing said **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025, 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

(803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND )  
 )  
 IN THE MATTER OF: )  
 COMPLAINT C2023-038 )  
 )  
 State Ethics Commission, )  
 Complainant, )  
 )  
 Clarence L. Stogner )  
 Respondent. )  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on March 20, 2023. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Clarence L. Stogner (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 the following:

**STATEMENTS OF FACT**

1. Respondent served on the Board of Trustees for the South Carolina Governor’s School for Science and Mathematics from 2012 through June 29, 2020.
2. Respondent did not file a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) on or before March 30 in 2019 or 2020.
3. In a December 19, 2022 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to timely file the 2019 SEI.
4. According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter was delivered to Respondent’s address of record on December 22, 2022 at 3:01 p.m. That afternoon, Respondent contacted Commission staff via telephone and left a voicemail. A Commission staff member returned Respondent’s telephone call on December 29, 2022, but was unable to

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reach him. According to Respondent, he did not receive a return telephone call.

5. On January 1, 2023, late-filing penalties began to accrue at \$10.00 per day with regard to the 2019 SEI.<sup>1</sup>
6. On January 11, 2023, late-filing penalties began accruing at \$100.00 per day with regard to the 2019 SEI.
7. Following the filing of the Complaint and contact from a Commission Investigator, Respondent came into compliance by filing his 2019 SEI and 2020 SEI.

### 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 member” pursuant to Section 8-13-100(26).

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, in relevant part:

. . . 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; (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.

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<sup>1</sup> Late-filing penalties did not accrue with regard to the 2020 SEI because Respondent was not notified of his failure to file this report via certified mail pursuant to Section 8-13-1510.

**DISCUSSION**

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with two (2) counts of violating Section 8-13-1140 for failing to timely file 2019 and 2020 SEIs. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he violated the Ethics Act as by failing to timely file these SEIs. In mitigation, Respondent states that he attempted to contact the Commission when he received the December 2022 certified letter, believing it to be in error on the Commission's part given the time that had passed since he left the Board. Respondent further states that upon receipt of the Complaint in 2023, he mistakenly recalled that his term ended in December of 2018 (rather than in June of 2020) and therefore believed filing a 2019 SEI and a 2020 SEI were not required. Finally, Respondent states that he has filed the requisite SEIs.


**DISPOSITION**

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

THEREFORE, the Commission hereby issues this Public Warning to Respondent. The Commission declines to assess any late-filing penalties or administrative fees given the facts and mitigation outlined herein.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 26 DAY OF AUGUST 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
CLARENCE L. STOGNER  
RESPONDENT