

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION  
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# STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:**  
**CASE NUMBER**  
C 2024-026

## COMPLAINT FORM

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

**RESPONDENT:** Darin M. Coleman  
**ADDRESS:** [REDACTED]  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** [REDACTED]  
**TITLE:** Chesterfield County School District Trustee

Section 8-13-1120, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires disclosure of the source, type, and amount of income from a governmental entity and a listing of the private source and type of any income received by the filer or a member of the filer's immediate family during the reporting period. Respondent failed to report private sources of income on his 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated April 28, 2023 as described in the attached. To date, a properly amended 2021, 2022, 2023, or 2024 Statement of Economic Interests have not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1120, 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 Walker Dayson 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  
3rd day of May, 2024

[REDACTED]  
Meghan Walker Dayson, 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 )  
)  
)  
IN THE MATTER OF: )  
)  
Complaint C2024-026 )  
)  
State Ethics Commission )  
Complainant. )  
)  
Darin M. Coleman )  
Respondent. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**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 State Ethics Commission will, therefore, convene a formal hearing into the matters, 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, February 20, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the State Ethics Commission Hearing Room located at: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210.

The following allegation will be heard:

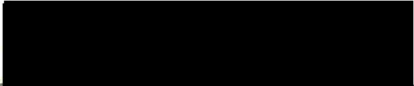
**COUNT ONE**  
**FAILURE TO REPORT INCOME ON STATEMENT OF ECONOMIC INTERESTS**  
**SECTION 8-13-1120(A)(2) S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED**

That Darin M. Coleman, Chesterfield County School District Trustee, did in Richland County, fail to report Respondent's government income on his 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 Statements of Economic Interests, in violation of Section 8-13-1120(A)(2).

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 19th day,  
of September 2024.

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on Darin M. Coleman, 9576 Hwy. 265, Mt. Croghan, SC 29727 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 23rd day of September 2024, 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 C2024-026 )  
  
State Ethics Commission, )  
Complainant, )  
  
Darin M. Coleman, )  
Respondent. )  

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BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

**CONSENT ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on May 3, 2024. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Darin M. Coleman (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. At all times relevant, Respondent has served as a Chesterfield County School District Trustee.
2. Respondent timely filed his 2021, 2022, and 2023 Statements of Economic Interests (SEIs) but failed to disclose all sources of income therein.
3. In an April 28, 2023 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to properly report income on his 2021, 2022, and 2023 SEIs.
4. According to the United States Postal Service, the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on May 22, 2023 at 2:41 p.m.
5. Respondent timely filed a 2024 SEI on March 7, 2024 but failed to disclose sources of income therein.
6. On March 20, 2024, Commission staff spoke with Respondent via telephone and informed him that he did not properly disclose income on his 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 SEIs. In response, Respondent stated that he was unaware that his other sources of income needed to be disclosed and

that he would correct his SEIs.

7. On May 30, 2024, Respondent received assistance from Commission staff in amending his 2021-2024 SEIs and is now in compliance.

### **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 official pursuant to Section 8-13-100(27).

Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

2. Section 8-13-1120(A) of the Act requires public officials to report, in part:

(2) the source, type, and amount or value of income, not to include tax refunds, of substantial monetary value received from a governmental entity by the filer or a member of the filer's immediate family during the reporting period.

...

(10) a listing of the private source and type of any income received in the previous year by the filer or a member of his immediate family . . .

3. Section 8-13-320(10)(l) allows the Commission to require a public official to pay a civil penalty of up to \$2,000.00 for each violation of the Ethics Act.
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 four (4) counts of violating Section 8-13-1120(A) for failing to disclose sources of income on his 2021-2024 SEIs. Commission staff subsequently condensed the charges to proceed on only one (1) count of Respondent violating Section 8-13-1120(A) for failing to disclose sources of income on his 2021-2024 SEIs. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits he failed to properly disclose all sources of income on his 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 SEIs. In mitigation, Respondent asserts that he believed he did not need to

disclose his other sources of income on his SEIs because the sources—Northeastern Technical College and his pastorship at a church—were public knowledge. Respondent states that he misunderstood the filing requirements and amended his filings shortly after receiving the Complaint. The Commission acknowledges that Respondent has now disclosed all sources of income on his 2021-2024 SEIs.

**DISPOSITION**

1. The Commission finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of 8-13-1120(A).
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 Reprimand to Respondent and orders Respondent to pay the Commission, within five (5) months from receipt of this Order, an administrative fee of \$550.00. The Commission declines to assess any civil penalties given the mitigation herein.

By executing this Consent Order, Respondent understands that he is not only admitting to a violation of the Ethics Act, but also confessing to a judgment of \$550.00 in the event he does not make payment as provided for in this Order, in which case the Commission shall file a Judgment against Respondent with the County Clerk of Court in Respondent's last known County of residence, who shall enter this Order in the amount of \$550.00 (less any money paid) in its Judgment Rolls, without cost to the Commission.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF January 2025.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

  
SCOTT E. FRICK, CHAIR

  
DARIN M. COLEMAN  
RESPONDENT