

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY:
CASE NUMBER
C 2025-036

COMPLAINT FORM

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

RESPONDENT: Allison Heffner
ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (803) 482-2136
TITLE: Former Chief Administrative Official –
Mitford Rural Water District

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 and 2022 Statement of Economic Interests.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirements by a certified letter dated June 20, 2024 as described in the attached. In addition, an email reminder was sent thirty days prior to the deadline. To date, a 2021 and 2022 Statement of Economic Interests have 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 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
2nd day of April, 2025

[REDACTED]

Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director

[REDACTED]

Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission expires 01/12/26

SEC-7 (Revised 3/2022)

REPLY TO: 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, South Carolina 29210 (803)253-4192
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
 COUNTY OF RICHLAND) BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
)
 IN THE MATTER OF:)
 COMPLAINT C2025-036)
)
 State Ethics Commission,) **DECISION AND ORDER**
 Complainant.)
)
 Allison Heffner,)
 Respondent.)
 _____)

This matter came before the South Carolina Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a Complaint filed on April 2, 2025. The Commission’s Executive Director reviewed the Complaint, determined it contained facts sufficient to warrant an investigation, and ordered an investigation. On July 17, 2025, the Commission reviewed the Complaint and investigative findings to determine whether probable cause existed to charge Allison Heffner (Respondent) with violating the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act). For the reasons stated herein, the Commission finds probable cause exists, but waives further proceedings.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. Respondent served as the Chief Administrative Official for the Mitford Rural Water District from June 2019 until September 2023.
2. Respondent failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) by March 30, 2022.
3. In a June 20, 2024 certified letter mailed to 807 Miles Road in Great Falls, the Commission notified Respondent of her failure to timely file a 2022 SEI. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the certified letter was delivered on June 27, 2024.
4. On July 2, 2025, following the filing of the Complaint, Respondent filed her 2022 SEI. According to Respondent, she moved from 807 Miles Road prior to the date of the

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Commission's letter and, therefore, did not receive it.

LAW

Pursuant to Section 8-13-320, the Commission is empowered to receive complaints and conduct investigations related to violations of the Ethics Act. Following the receipt of a Complaint and completion of a corresponding investigation, the Commission must determine whether there is probable cause to believe a violation of the Ethics Act occurred. Section 8-13-320(10)(i). If the Commission determines probable cause exists, it may order a hearing on the merits or, if the Respondent has taken action to remedy or correct the alleged violation, it may waive further proceedings. Section 8-13-320(10)(i). The decision to waive further proceedings lies within the sound discretion of the Commission.

Section 8-13-1140 requires all public officials to file a SEI on or before March 30 of each year. Pursuant to Section 8-13-1510, an automatic \$100.00 late-filing penalty is assessed when a public official fails to timely file a SEI.

DECISION

Based on evidence presented, the Commission hereby determines there is probable cause to believe that Respondent violated Section 8-13-1140 of the Ethics Act by failing to timely file a 2022 SEI. However, given that Respondent has since filed her 2022 SEI, and in light of the fact that Respondent did not receive the Commission's June 24, 2024 correspondence, the Commission hereby waives further proceedings with regard to this Complaint. The Commission notes that the \$100.00 late-filing penalty assessed pursuant to Section 8-13-1510 will be assessed through the Commission's Non-Compliance Division.

THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i), and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, the Commission hereby finds probable cause and waives further

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proceedings.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 31st DAY OF July, 2025.

SOUTH CAROLINA ETHICS COMMISSION



F. XAVIER STARKES, CHAIR

Columbia, South Carolina