STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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Official Use Only Date Received: C2026-025

Rev. 11/2025

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
201 Executive Center Drive
Suite 150
Columbia, SC 29210
ETHICS ACT COMPLAINT FORM

Section 1. READ BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM:

Investigative Authority: The Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (the Act) gives the State Ethics Commission (Commission) the authority to investigate complaints against candidates, public officials, public members, public employees, at the state or local government level in South Carolina as well as lobbyists, and lobbyist's principals.

The Commission has the authority to investigate violations of Title 8, Chapter 13 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 2, Chapter 17 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 59, Chapter 150 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, various provisions of Title 42, Chapter 3 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, and various provisions of Title 58, Chapter 3 of the South Carolina Code of Laws

Statute of Limitations: Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(9)(d) of the Act, the Commission cannot take action on a complaint more than four years after the violation is alleged to have occurred.

Blackout Period: Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(9)(b)(1) of the Act, no complaint may be accepted against a candidate for elective office during the fifty-day period before an election in which he is a candidate.

Please note that the Commission does not have the jurisdiction to investigate alleged violations of South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act, violations of the criminal code, instances of rude or discourteous treatment, federal officials, or violations of local ordinances, policies, or procedures.

Section 2. PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING A COMPLAINT:

Complaints must be submitted by mailing the original of a fully completed complaint form to the Commission at 201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Columbia, SC 29210. Failing to completely fill out the complaint form will result in the form being returned to you without an investigation being opened. Complaint forms must be either typed or written in clear, legible handwriting.

Both the Complainant and the Respondent have the right to be represented by legal counsel of their choosing. If either the complainant and/or the respondent chooses to be represented by legal counsel, they do so at their own expense.

Section 3. CONFIDENTIALITY:

Complaint forms become public documents if the Commission finds probable cause that a violation of law has occurred. Please note that upon receiving a properly filed complaint form, the Commission will share an unredacted copy of the complaint with the Respondent whether or not an investigation is ordered.

Section 4. COMPLAINT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Please check each circle to acknowledge that you have read and understand the following:

- ✓ I understand that I may be called to testify in an administrative or criminal proceeding should probable cause be found on this matter.
- ✓ I understand that I may be subpoenaed to sit for a deposition where I will be required to answer questions under oath.
- ✓ I understand that my name, address, and phone number will be shared with the Respondent.
- ✓ I understand that my name may be made public by the Respondent or the Commission.

Section 5. CHECK THE POSITION OF THE PERSON AGAINST WHOM THIS COMPLAINT IS FILED:

- o Candidate for public office
- o Elected official at the state or local level
- ✓ Employee of local or state government
- o Lobbyist
- o Lobbyist's Principal
- o Member of South Carolina Legislature
- o Public member (a person appointed to a part-time board, commission, or council at the state or local level)

Section 6. COMPLAINANT AND RESPONDENT INFORMATION:

I. PERSON BRINGING THE COMPLAINT (COMPLAINANT)			
Name:	State Ethics Commission		
Address:	201 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150		
City:	Columbia	**State:** SC	**Zip Code:** 29210
Telephone	(803) 253-4192	**Email Address:**	
II. PERSON AGAINST WHOM COMPLAINT IS BROUGHT (RESPONDENT)			
Name:	Danny A. Templar		
Address:	[redacted]		
City:	[redacted]	**State:** [redacted]	**Zip Code:** [redacted]
Telephone	[redacted]		

Section 7. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS COMPLAINT COMES FROM:

- ✓ Personal knowledge
- o Media Reports
- o From a third-party
- o Other
  - o Please specify:_____

Section 8: STATEMENT OF FACTS (Please state the actions of the Respondent upon which your ethics complaint is based):

Section 8-13-1110, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended, requires certain officials to file a Statement of Economic Interests prior to assuming the duties of the office. Records in the State Ethics Commission indicate that the Respondent was required to file the 2022 Statement of Economic Interests as the Kershaw County Chief Administrative Official prior to assuming the duties of the office in August 2022.

Respondent was reminded of the filing requirement by a certified letter dated December 6, 2024 as described in the attached. To date, a 2022 Statement of Economic Interests has not been received. All in violation of Section 8-13-1110, SC Code Ann., 1976, as amended.

Section 9. VERIFICATION BY OATH OR AFFIRMATION - ORIGINAL NOTARY AND SIGNATURES REQUIRED:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND

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

Sworn to and subscribed before me this
6th day of April, 2026

[redacted]

Meghan Walker Dayson
Executive Director

[redacted]

Notary Public for South Carolina

My Commission expires March 14, 2033

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY OF RICHLAND	)	BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
Complaint C2026-025	)	
State Ethics Commission Complainant.	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
Danny A. Templar 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, October 15, 2026, 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 8-13-1110, S.C. CODE ANN., 1976, AS AMENDED

That Danny A. Templar, County Administrator for Kershaw County, failed to file a Statement of Economic Interests prior to assuming his official duties in August 2022, in violation of Section 8-13-1110.

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.

[redacted]

Meghan Walker Dayson, Executive Director
State Ethics Commission

Dated this 16th day,
of July 2026

Certificate of Service by Certified Mail

I hereby certify that a copy of this **NOTICE OF HEARING** was duly served on RESPONDENT Danny A. Templar, 2132 Arrowwood Road West, Camden, SC 29020 by depositing said **NOTICE OF HEARING** in the United States mail, Columbia, South Carolina on this 17 day of July 2026, by CERTIFIED MAIL, E-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, appropriate postage affixed, and a return address clearly indicated on said envelope.

[redacted]

Maquita S. Kessler, Paralegal
State Ethics Commission (803) 253-4192

Columbia, South Carolina

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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION
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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND

IN THE MATTER OF:
Complaint 2026-025

State Ethics Commission,
Complainant.

Danny A. Templar,
Respondent.

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

CONSENT ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission (Commission) by way of a complaint received on April 6, 2026. Pursuant to Section 8-13-320(10)(i) of the South Carolina Ethics, Government Accountability, and Campaign Reform Act (Ethics Act), the Complaint against Danny A. Templar (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 was hired as the Kershaw County Administrator in August 2022.
2. Respondent did not file a Statement of Economic Interests (SEI) prior to assuming the official responsibilities of his position.
3. Respondent subsequently filed SEIs in 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026.[1]
4. On June 4, 2024, Respondent emailed Commission employee Renada Ellerbe as follows:

> I inadvertently filled out a report for the year 2021, but I was not in my current role as the Administrator for Kershaw County. Please see the attached Personnel Action Form indicating my promotion to

[1] These SEIs were timely filed with the exception of the 2026 SEI, which was filed late on May 7, 2026. A $100.00 late-filing penalty was subsequently assessed in accordance with Section 8-13-1510(A)(1) of the Ethics Act. The 2026 SEI and the associated $100.00 late-filing penalty are being handled through the Commission's standard non-compliance process and is not part of the current Complaint.

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> Administrator, reflecting the action date. Let me know if you have any further questions.[2]

5. Based on a review of Commission records, it does not appear that Ellerbe replied to Respondent's June 4, 2024 email.
6. In a December 6, 2024 certified letter, the Commission notified Respondent of his failure to timely file a 2022 SEI.
7. According to the United States Postal Service (USPS), the certified letter was delivered to Respondent's address of record on December 11, 2024.
8. Following the filing of the Complaint, Commission Investigator Kevin Hinson contacted Respondent. Respondent stated that he was generally unaware that he was required to file an SEI as County Administrator until March 20, 2023, when he received an email from the County's Finance Director. Respondent stated that he had attempted to contact the Commission prior to the filing of the Complaint. Finally, Respondent acknowledged that filing the 2022 SEI was his responsibility.
9. On June 3, 2026, Respondent filed the 2022 SEI with the assistance of Commission employee Erin Caughman. At that time, Caughman noted that Respondent had a 2022 SEI saved but not filed in the Commission's electronic filing system.[3]

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, as defined in Section 8-13-100(25).

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[2] Commission records also reflect that Respondent telephoned the Commission on May 29, 2024 with a similar question, but the records do not detail the substance of the conversation that occurred.

[3] The Commission's electronic filing system allows filers to save a report rather than filing it but does not record the date on which the report was saved by the filer.

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Therefore, the Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction.

2. As a County Administrator, Respondent was required to file a SEI in accordance with Section 8-13-1110(B)(5).

3. Respondent failed to file a 2022 SEI prior to assuming his official responsibilities in August 2022, in violation of Section 8-13-1110(A), which provides, in relevant part:

> No [public employee] . . . may take the oath of office or enter upon his official responsibilities unless he has filed a statement of economic interests in accordance with the provisions of this chapter . . . if a [public employee] has no economic interests to disclose, he shall nevertheless file a statement of inactivity to that effect . . .

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

5. Section 8-13-1510(A) allows the Commission to assess late filing penalties as follows:

> 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 is 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.

DISCUSSION

The Commission found probable cause to charge Respondent with one (1) count of Section 8-13-1110(A) for failing to file the 2022 SEI prior to assuming his official responsibilities in August 2022. Through this Consent Order, Respondent admits that he failed to file the 2022 SEI as alleged. In mitigation, Respondent states that he was not informed of his filing requirement until March 2023, when he was notified by the County's Finance Director. Respondent also states that he contacted the

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Commission in May 2024 in an attempt to bring his filings into compliance but believes there was confusion over which SEI he was required to file.

DISPOSITION

1. The Commission hereby finds Respondent in violation of one (1) count of Section 8-13-1110(A).
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 this written warning to Respondent for this violation of the Ethics Act. In light of the mitigation listed herein, particularly with regard to Respondent's attempts to file the 2022 SEI prior to the filing of the Complaint, the Commission waives all late-filing penalties and administrative fees.

AND IT IS ORDERED THIS 29th DAY OF October 2026.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

[redacted]

Print name: Sara Parrish

[redacted]

DANNY A. TEMPLAR
RESPONDENT