

THE ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**IN RE THE MATTER OF
CHRISTOPHER NEIL WILKS
MAY 9, 2019**

**LICENSURE ACTION
CASE NO.:
PLSB-18-103**

At its regular meeting on May 9, 2019, the Arkansas State Board of Education (“Board”) considered the matter of Christopher Neil Wilks (“Educator Wilks”) concerning the non-payment of a fine assessed by Board. Based upon the evidence presented, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-101 et seq., the Board hereby states as follows:

I. Findings of Fact:

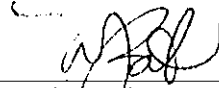
- a. On June 1, 2018, the Professional Licensure Standards Board (“PLSB”)-Ethics Subcommittee (“Ethics Subcommittee”) unanimously found reasonable belief that Educator Wilks violated Standards 1,2, and 8 of the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators. The Ethics Subcommittee recommended that the State Board take the following actions:
- Suspend Educator Wilks’s license for two (2) years;
 - Assess a \$100 fine (Due within ninety (90) days following the Board’s Final Order;
 - Require him to attend an alcohol treatment program;
 - Require him to provide a letter from a licensed professional that the educator is fit to return to the classroom;
 - Provide quarterly reports on treatment progress for the duration of the two (2) year suspension;
 - Require him to write a reflection statement explaining how he will cope with life stressors without using alcohol; (The written reflection must be submitted to the PLSB office within thirty (30) days of the suspension end date); and
 - Require that all associated costs be paid by Educator.
- b. On June 4, 2018, Educator Wilks was notified of the Ethics Subcommittee’s reasonable belief determination and recommendation by certified and regular mail. Educator Wilks did not respond to the Ethics Subcommittee’s recommendation thereby waiving his right to any further notice, hearing, or any other rights he may have under the Administrative Procedure Act, including those rights set forth in Ark. Code Ann. §§ 25-15-211 and 25-15-212.

- c. On August 9, 2018, The Board entered its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order (Order) in which it adopted the Ethics Subcommittee's findings and recommended sanctions.
- d. The Board's order directed Educator Wilks to pay the assessed \$100 fine within ninety (90) days. The order further stated that, "failure to pay the fine within ninety (90) days from the date of this order may result in more severe discipline, including permanent revocation of her license.
- e. On August 10, 2018, the PLSB office mailed Educator Wilks the Board's order via certified and first class mail.
- f. On January 30, 2019, the PLSB office mailed Educator Wilks a request for payment of the fine assessed by the Board; this correspondence was mailed to Educator Day's last known address of record.
- g. On January 30, 2019, the PLSB notified Educator Wilks that the department would request a suspension of his license until payment was received and of the May 9, 2019, hearing.
- h. To date, Educator Wilks has not responded to the PLSB's collection attempts and has not submitted payment of the assessed fine.

II. Conclusions of Law

- a. Upon consideration of the evidence presented at the meeting and pursuant to Ark. Code Ann. §§ 6-11-105, 6-17-401, 6-17-422, 6-17-428 and 25-15-201 et seq., and the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators, the Board unanimously voted to suspend Educator Wilks' license until payment of the assessed one hundred dollar (\$100) fine is received by the Arkansas Department of Education's PLSB office.
- b. Furthermore, Educator Wilks' license shall be reflected as suspended on the Arkansas Department of Education's public website for licensure until payment of the assessed seventy-five dollar (\$100) fine is received by the Arkansas Department of Education's PLSB office.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Jay Barth, Chair
Arkansas State Board of Education