

## WHAT TO DO — EMERGENCY REFERENCE

# What to Do If You Receive a TEA/SBEC Complaint

Texas educator certification proceedings under 19 TAC Chapter 249 move faster than most expect. Your initial response can make or break the case.

### CALL AN ATTORNEY IMMEDIATELY — (214) 466-1398

A licensed attorney answers 24/7. Do NOT discuss your case with anyone except your lawyer. Statements to police, cellmates, friends, or family can be used against you.

### Do This Now

1. Read the TEA inquiry letter carefully and note all deadlines.
2. Do NOT respond immediately with a written statement — consult counsel first.
3. Preserve all communications, lesson plans, attendance records, and performance reviews.
4. Identify witnesses (coworkers, students, administrators) who can corroborate your account.
5. If related to criminal arrest, coordinate TEA defense with criminal defense strategy.
6. Maintain professional conduct; do not discuss the case with students or colleagues.
7. Check whether your teaching contract requires you to notify your district.
8. Contact L and L Law Group at (214) 466-1398 for TEA/SBEC representation.

### Avoid These Common Mistakes

- Do NOT submit an unexamined written response — statements may be used throughout the proceeding.
- Do NOT resign before consulting counsel — resignation may be reported to TEA and trigger investigation anyway.
- Do NOT discuss the allegations on social media or with students.
- Do NOT contact the complainant directly.
- Do NOT ignore TEA deadlines — default sanctions apply.

### Key Texas Law You Should Know

#### 19 TAC Chapter 249 — Educator Certification Disciplinary Proceedings

Governs all TEA/SBEC disciplinary actions.

#### Texas Education Code § 21.058 — Mandatory Revocation

Certain convictions (sex offenses, violent felonies) require mandatory certificate revocation.

#### Texas Education Code § 21.006 — District Reporting

School districts must report educator misconduct to TEA.

#### Texas Gov't Code Ch. 2001 — Administrative Procedure Act

Governs SOAH contested hearings on TEA matters.

## Possible Outcomes

- Dismissal of the complaint
- Agreed inscribed reprimand (lightest sanction)
- Restricted certification (terms + supervision)
- Suspension with reinstatement terms
- Revocation of certification
- Permanent revocation (for most serious cases)

### CRITICAL DEADLINES

Initial response: 30 days from TEA inquiry letter (varies) | Request SOAH contested hearing: strict timeline after proposed sanction | Proposal for Decision objection: 15 days

## Questions to Bring to Your Consultation

- Can this case be dismissed at intake?
- What sanction is realistically available?
- Should I request a SOAH contested hearing?
- How does this interact with my related criminal case (if any)?
- Can I continue teaching during the investigation?
- What are the appeal options?

### FREE CONSULTATION — AVAILABLE 24/7

Call (214) 466-1398 or visit [friscocriminalattorneys.com/contact.html](https://friscocriminalattorneys.com/contact.html). A licensed attorney answers day or night. Flat-fee pricing with payment plans available.