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Title 46
PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS
Part LXXV. Speech Pathology and Audiology

Chapter 1. General Rules

§103. Definitions

A. As used in these regulations, the following terms and phrases, which have not already been defined in Title 37, Louisiana Revised Statutes, Section 2651-2666, shall have the meanings specified.

Accredited Educational Institution—college or university that holds regional accreditation.

Accredited Educational Program—a graduate program in audiology or speech-language pathology that is accredited by the Council for Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (CAA) or the Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education (ACAE).

Aides—individuals not licensed by the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (LBESPA) who, after appropriate training, perform tasks that are prescribed, directed, and supervised by speech-language pathologists or audiologists licensed in accordance with R.S. 37:2659(A) or (B). Licensed audiologists and licensed speech-language pathologists are legally, ethically, and morally responsible for the services provided by aides working under their direction.

Assistant Licensee—an individual who meets the qualifications established by R.S. 37:2659(F), and works under the direct supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist and performs only those duties specified in §119. May engage in the provision of services via telehealth delivery as directed by their supervisor, provided all supervision guidelines are met.

Asynchronous Store and Forward Transfer—the transmission of client information in the delivery of telehealth services from an originating site to the provider at the distant site without the client being present.

Cooperating Program—an approved agency of a regionally accredited training institution.

Criminal History Record Information—information collected by state and federal criminal justice agencies consisting of identifiable descriptions and notations of arrests, detentions, indictments, bills of information or any other formal criminal charges, and any disposition arising therefrom, including sentencing, criminal correctional supervision and release.

Direct Patient/Client Contact—practicum experience obtained during performance of a clinical activity with a patient/client.

Direct Supervision—the supervisor observing the licensee engaging in a specified clinical activity with a patient/client in order to obtain knowledge and provide guidance regarding the supervisee's clinical work. The supervisor shall accomplish this task either by being physically present in the room or through the use of a secure live video, live stream or web cam.

Distant Site—the site at which the healthcare provider delivering the service is located at the time the service is provided via a telecommunication system.

Facilitator—the individual at the client site who assists with the delivery of telehealth services at the direction of the audiologist or speech-language pathologist.

Full-Time Employment/Experience—a minimum of 30 clock hours per week.

Full-Time Supervised Professional Employment/Experience—a minimum of 36 weeks engaged in the provision of clinical services. Volunteer services are not acceptable.

Grace Period—the period in which an applicant may be employed while an initial application for licensure is being considered by the board. The grace period cannot exceed 60 days from the date that the application is received by the board.

Graduate Training Clinical Practicum Hours—a combination of undergraduate and graduate clinical practicum hours that culminate with a graduate degree or its equivalent.

Hearing Screening—pure-tone air conduction screening, and screening tests of auditory function such as tympanometry, otoacoustic emissions (OAE) and auditory brainstem response (ABR) testing, for the purpose of the initial identification and/or referral of individuals with suspected hearing problems and/or middle ear pathology.

Indirect Supervision—the utilization of alternative methods, other than direct supervision, to acquire knowledge of a supervisee's clinical work, e.g. review of client folders and record keeping, scheduling, and planning.

License Renewal Period—the period of time that begins July 1, and ends on June 30, of the following calendar year.

Originating Site—the location of the client at the time the service is furnished via a telecommunications system or when the asynchronous store and forward transfer occurs.

Part-Time Employment/Experience—a minimum of 15 hours, but less than 30 clock hours per week.

Part-Time Postgraduate Professional Employment Experience—part-time experience greater than or equal to a minimum of 15 hours per week up to 72 weeks of employment experience.

Provisional Assistant Licensee—an individual who meets the qualifications established in R.S. 37: 2659(G) and works under the direct supervision of a licensed speech-language pathologist and performs only those duties specified in §121. This person has completed a minimum of 100 of 225 supervised clinical practicum hours and is working to complete the remaining hours on-the-job and/or through a regionally accredited educational institution or its cooperating programs. May not engage in the provision of services via telehealth delivery; however, the individual may function as a facilitator given appropriate training.

Supervised On-the-Job Training—direct supervision hours which have been obtained during paid employment, and documented on the form provided by the board.

Synchronous Interaction—communication through interactive technology in the delivery of telehealth services that enable an audiologist or speech-language pathologist and a client at two locations separated by distance to interact via two-way video and audio transmissions simultaneously.

Telehealth—also known as telepractice, is a mode of delivering audiology and speech-language pathology services that utilizes information and communication technologies to enable the diagnosis, consultation, treatment, education care management, and self-management of clients at a distance from the audiologist or speech-language pathologist provider. Telehealth allows services to be accessed when providers are in a distant site and patients are in the originating site. Telehealth facilitates self-management and caregiver support for patients and includes synchronous interactions and asynchronous store and forward transfers.

Telehealth Registration—limited to out-of-state residents whose out-of-state audiology or speech-language pathology license does not require supervision, is an unrestricted and unencumbered license in good standing to perform audiology or speech-language pathology in the state in which the provider is located, and the license is comparable to the license in Louisiana as determined by this board.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 14:705 (October 1988), amended LR 22:346 (May 1996), LR 27:197 (February 2001), LR 28:1781 (August 2002), LR 30:2307 (October 2004), LR 33:2192 (October 2007), LR 37:2392 (August 2011), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 42:1665 (October 2016), LR 45:249 (February 2019), LR 48:2735 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2951 (December 2022).

§105. Designations

A. Individuals licensed by the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

may use the following designations when listing their credentials.

1. L-SLP—Speech-Language Pathologist
2. L-AUD—Audiologist
3. PL-SLP—Provisional Speech-Language Pathologist
4. R-SLP—Restricted Speech-Language Pathologist

B. Speech-Language Pathology Assistants and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistants shall list their full license title when listing their credentials, e.g., B.A., SLP Assistant.

1. When signing formal and informal professional documents, speech-language pathology assistants and provisional speech-language pathology assistants shall write their full license title, e.g., B.A., SLP assistant or B.A., provisional SLP assistant. speech-language pathology assistants and provisional speech-language pathology assistants shall always identify themselves as such in professional interactions.

C. Titles and academic credential designations shall represent earned degrees obtained through regionally accredited university programs. To appropriately represent the level of education in the area of practice, when listing an educational designation, the licensee shall list the highest degree earned in audiology or speech-language pathology. In addition, graduate degrees earned in other disciplines must specify the area in which the degree was earned [e.g., B.S. (speech-language therapy), M.Ed. (administration)]. When listing credentials, licensees should sequentially list their name, educational designation, license designation, and professional certification, e.g., M.A., L-SLP, CCC-SLP.

D. Telehealth registrants must list their field of practice, audiology or speech-language pathology, and indicate “limited to telepractice only”.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 22:346 (May 1996), amended LR 27:197 (February 2001), LR 30:2308 (October 2004), LR 33:2192 (October 2007), LR 48:2736 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2950 (December 2022).

§107. Qualifications for Licensure

A. Coursework Requirements—Audiology License. The applicant shall submit official transcripts from one or more regionally accredited colleges or universities (including programs in candidacy) evidencing completion of at least 75 semester credit hours of post-baccalaureate coursework for applicants who completed a doctoral program after January 1, 2005.

B. Coursework Requirements—Audiology License. The following coursework requirements apply to applicants who completed a master's program after January 1, 1994.

1. The applicant shall submit official transcripts from one or more regionally accredited colleges or universities

evidencing completion of at least 75 semester hours of coursework which constitutes a well-integrated program.

2.a. Thirty-six semester credit hours of professional coursework in audiology; 30 of which shall be in courses for which graduate credit was received*:

b. a maximum of 6 academic semester credit hours associated with clinical practicum may be counted toward the minimum of 30 semester credit hours of professional coursework.

C. Coursework Requirements—Audiology License. The following coursework requirements apply to applicants who completed a master's program which was begun prior to January 1, 1994.

1. The applicant shall submit official transcripts from one or more regionally accredited colleges or universities evidencing completion of at least 60 semester hours of coursework which constitutes a well-integrated program that includes at least 12 semester credit hours in basic human communication processes to include the anatomic and physiologic bases, the physical and psychophysical bases, and the linguistic and psycholinguistic aspects.

2.a. Thirty semester credit hours of professional coursework in audiology*:

- i. 6 in hearing disorders and hearing evaluation;
- ii. 6 in habilitative/rehabilitative procedures;
- iii. 6 semester credit hours in speech-language pathology.

b. Twenty-one of the 30 semester credit hours shall be in courses for which graduate credit was received.

c. A maximum of 6 academic semester credit hours associated with clinical practicum may be counted toward the minimum of 30 semester credit hours of professional coursework, but those hours may not be used to satisfy the minimum of 6 semester credit hours in hearing disorders/evaluation, 6 hours in habilitative/rehabilitative procedures, or 6 hours in speech-language pathology, or the 21 graduate credits in the professional area for which the license is sought.

D. Coursework Requirements—Speech-Language Pathology License and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology License. The applicant shall submit official transcripts from one or more regionally accredited colleges or universities (including programs in candidacy) evidencing completion of 75 semester credit hours, including at least 36 at the graduate level, from an accredited speech-language pathology program for applicants who began a graduate program after January 1, 2004.

E. Coursework Requirements—Speech-Language Pathology License and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology License. The following coursework requirements apply to applicants who began a master's program between January 1, 1994 and January 1, 2004.

1. The applicant shall submit official transcripts from one or more regionally accredited colleges or universities evidencing completion of at least 75 semester hours of coursework which constitutes a well-integrated program that includes at least:

a. 6 semester credit hours in biological/physical sciences and mathematics;

b. 6 semester credit hours in behavioral and/or social sciences;

c. 15 semester credit hours in basic human communication processes to include the anatomic and physiologic bases, the physical and psychophysical bases, and the linguistic and psycholinguistic aspects.

2.a. Thirty-six semester credit hours of professional coursework in speech-language pathology; 30 of which shall be in courses for which graduate credit was received*:

b. a maximum of 6 academic semester credit hours associated with clinical practicum may be counted toward the minimum of 30 semester credit hours of professional coursework.

*If seeking licensure in both speech-language pathology and audiology, at least 15 graduate level semester hours in each area are required.

F. Coursework Requirements—Speech-Language Pathology License and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology License. The following coursework requirements apply to applicants who began a master's program prior to January 1, 1994.

1. The applicant shall submit official transcripts from one or more regionally accredited colleges or universities evidencing completion of at least 60 semester hours of coursework which constitutes a well-integrated program that includes at least 12 semester credit hours in basic human communication processes to include the anatomic and physiologic bases, the physical and psychophysical bases, and the linguistic and psycholinguistic aspects.

2.a. Thirty semester credit hours of professional coursework in speech-language pathology*:

- i. 6 in speech disorders;
- ii. 6 in language disorders;
- iii. 6 in audiology.

b. Twenty-one of the 30 semester credit hours shall be in courses for which graduate credit was received.

c. A maximum of 6 academic semester credit hours associated with clinical practicum may be counted toward the minimum of 30 semester credit hours of professional coursework, but those hours may not be used to satisfy the minimum of 12 semester credit hours in speech/language disorders, 6 hours in language disorders, or 3 hours in audiology, or the 21 graduate credits in the professional area for which the license is sought.

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*If seeking licensure in both speech-language pathology and audiology, at least 15 graduate level semester hours in each area are required.

G. Coursework Requirements—Speech-Language Pathology Assistant and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

1. A bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology from a regionally accredited institution fulfills the coursework requirements of the board provided the individual has successfully completed coursework in both articulation and language disorders.

2. If the bachelor's degree is not in speech-language pathology, the degree program should include the following core coursework. A total of 41 hours shall be obtained in the following areas.

3. Basic requirements:

- a. biological or physical sciences—6 semester hours;
- b. mathematics or statistics—6 semester hours;
- c. psychology/sociology/multicultural studies (some combination)—6 semester hours.

4. Basic professional courses:

- a. American phonetics—3 semester hours;
- b. anatomy and physiology of the speech and hearing mechanism—3 semester hours;
- c. normal speech and language acquisition—3 semester hours.

5. Speech and language disorders:

- a. introduction to communication disorders—3 semester hours;
- b. articulation disorders—3 semester hours;
- c. language disorders—3 semester hours;
- d. clinical practicum in communication disorders—2 semester hours;

(Additional credit may be obtained as an elective.)

6. Hearing and hearing disorders:

- a. introduction to audiology*—3 semester hours.

H. Clinical Practicum Hour Requirements. An individual shall submit official documentation from a regionally accredited educational institution or its cooperating programs, verifying supervised clinical practicum hours as follows.

1. Speech-Language Pathology and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Licenses

- a. 400 clinical practicum hours if graduate program began after January 1, 2004;
- b. 375 clinical practicum hours if graduate program began between January 1, 1994 and January 1, 2004;

- c. 300 clinical practicum hours if graduate program began prior to January 1, 1994.

2. Audiology License

- a. The program or clinical director from an accredited educational institution must verify that the individual has met the breadth and depth of clinical experiences.

- b. 375 clinical practicum hours if graduate program began between January 1, 1994 and January 1, 2005;

- c. 300 clinical practicum hours if graduate program began prior to January 1, 1994.

3. Speech-Language Pathology Assistant License

- a. 225 clinical practicum hours are required, the first 100 of which shall have been obtained through a regionally accredited educational institution or its cooperating programs. Of the 100 hours obtained through a regionally accredited educational institution, 75 shall be obtained through direct patient/client contact. No simulation experiences will be accepted. The remaining 25 hours may be obtained through observation of assessment and therapy. It is recommended that the direct patient/client contact hours be obtained in at least two practicum sites with one site being a public school setting. The first 75 hours of direct patient/client contact shall be obtained in the following categories:

- i. minimum of 20 hours in speech disorders;
- ii. minimum of 20 hours in language disorders;

- iii. the remaining 35 hours may be obtained in the areas of speech, language or hearing disorders. A maximum of 5 of these hours may be in the area of audiology. It is recommended that a minimum of 20 hours be obtained in articulation.

- b. The remaining 125 hours must be obtained on-the-job and/or through a regionally accredited educational institution or its cooperating programs. Simulation experiences are not accepted.

4. Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant License

- a. A minimum of 100 clinical practicum hours which have been obtained through a regionally accredited educational institution or its cooperating programs as defined in §107.I.3 is required.

- i. The first 75 hours of direct patient/client contact shall be obtained in the following categories:

- (a). minimum of 20 hours in speech disorders;

- (b). minimum of 20 hours in language disorders;

- (c). the remaining 35 hours may be obtained in the areas of speech, language or hearing disorders. A maximum of 5 of these hours may be in the area of audiology. It is recommended that a minimum of 20 hours be obtained in articulation.

b. The additional 125 hours required to upgrade to the speech-language pathology assistant license shall be obtained within three years of the date of issuance of the provisional assistant license and may be obtained by completing the remaining hours on-the-job and/or through a regionally accredited educational institution or its cooperating programs. Those hours obtained through supervised on-the-job training must consist of direct supervision hours and will only be accepted from the date that the application for license is received by the board.

c. A provisional speech-language pathology assistant must request, in writing, deferment of the three-year period to complete licensure upgrade requirements. Such deferment may only be requested if there is an extenuating circumstance, such as inability to obtain employment in the area of speech-language pathology. The license must be renewed annually. Such deferment may only be held for a period of three years from the time of board approval.

i. If the licensee has never worked as a provisional speech-language pathology assistant, a notarized statement shall be submitted to the board annually.

ii. If the licensee is not currently employed as a provisional speech-language pathology assistant a letter specifying date of termination from the last employer shall be submitted to the board office with Form 200, to verify supervision to the date of termination.

iii. Licensees on inactive status may retain their license by payment of the annual renewal fee. In order to resume practice as a speech-language pathology assistant, licensees on inactive status shall demonstrate completion of 5 clock hours of continuing education in the area of licensure for each year that inactive status was maintained (maximum of 25 hours).

I. Equivalency Requirements—Speech-Language Pathology, Provisional Speech-Language Pathology, or Audiology License

1. Individuals who do not possess a graduate degree in either audiology or speech-language pathology but wish to obtain a license through the equivalency process shall meet the coursework, practicum and examination requirements for the area in which licensure is sought as defined in the board's rules entitled coursework requirements: audiology license; coursework requirements: speech-language pathology license and provisional speech-language pathology license; clinical practicum hour requirements and examination requirement.

J. Postgraduate Professional Employment/Experience

1. A graduate-level speech-language pathologist must submit verification of 36 weeks of full-time postgraduate professional employment/experience or its full-time equivalent.

K. Examination Requirement—Speech-Language Pathology License, Provisional Speech-Language Pathology License, Audiology License

1. The board recognizes only the educational testing service's specialty area examinations for audiology and speech-language pathology as the licensure examination for audiology and/or speech-language pathology. Scores received directly from the applicant are not acceptable for licensing purposes.

2. The passing scores for the audiology and speech-language pathology area examinations are determined by the educational testing service.

3. If an individual has never held a license to practice audiology or speech-language pathology in another state, and if the degree program was completed greater than 10 years from the date of application, the passing score on the specialty area examination for audiology or speech-language pathology must have been obtained within the last 5 years.

L. Restricted License Qualifications

1. In order to reinstate a restricted license to practice speech-language pathology held prior to August 15, 1995, an applicant shall:

a. hold a bachelor's degree with a major in speech pathology, together with a current Type A B, or C teaching certificate issued by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education or their equivalent as determined by the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education certifying the applicant as a specialist of speech, language and hearing; and

b. submit evidence of completion of his/her clock hours of supervised, direct clinical experience with persons having a variety of communication disorders. This experience shall be obtained through a training institution or its cooperating programs;

c. be permitted to practice in Louisiana only while under the direct supervision of a Louisiana licensed speech-language pathologist.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 14:706 (October 1988), amended LR 22:346 (May 1996), LR 27:197 (February 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1690 (October 2001), amended LR 28:1781 (August 2002), LR 30:2308 (October 2004), LR 33:2192 (October 2007), LR 37:2393 (August 2011), LR 39:1042 (April 2013), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 42:1666 (October 2016), LR 48:2736 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2952 (December 2022).

§109. Licensure Application Procedures

A. An application for a license to practice audiology and/or speech-language pathology shall be made on board-approved forms.

B. Criminal history record information must be submitted with the application form.

C. Official transcripts shall be sent to this board directly from the college or university from which the academic requirements were earned.

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D. Documentation of supervised clinical practicum hours shall be submitted on university forms signed by a clinical supervisor or director, and must be submitted along with the application form. The hours submitted must reflect the depth and breadth of clinical experiences across the lifespan.

E. The initial license fee submitted to this board with the application form shall be paid by credit card.

F. Audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and/or assistants who have held a license in another state, shall provide official verification of their licensure status in each state, including any formal disciplinary action resulting in sanction and/or disciplinary proceedings which are pending. Verification of licensure status must be submitted along with the application form.

G. Documentation of thirty-six weeks of postgraduate professional employment/experience shall be submitted directly to the board in writing on official agency letterhead.

H. Documentation of 36 weeks of postgraduate professional employment/experience, a passing score on the educational testing service's specialty area examination, and verification of supervised clinical practicum hours may be waived for individuals who submit verification that they hold the certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association or proof of certification from the American Board of Audiology (ABA) with proof of passing the national exam. Documentation must be submitted with the application form.

I. Postgraduate professional employment/experience which counts toward upgrading the license status, will only be accepted from the date that a licensee's application is received by the board.

J. While an initial application for licensure is being considered by the board, the applicant may be employed as an audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant for a period not to exceed 60 calendar days from the date that their completed application is received by the board. In no event may the applicant be employed as an audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant after the application has been denied.

K. An applicant, with the exception of military applicants and military spouses, may be granted only one 60-day period to work while his/her initial application is being processed. No additional grace period may be granted to an applicant, regardless of whether the application is a new license or a request to reinstate or upgrade a license.

L. The board may refuse to consider any application which is not complete in every detail, including submission of every document required by the application form and instructions. The board may, at its discretion, require a more detailed or complete response to any request for information set forth in the application form as a condition for consideration of an application.

M. Applicants who have not obtained licensure within one year of the board's receipt of the application shall be

deemed to have abandoned the application, resulting in mandatory reporting to the appropriate federal data bank. An applicant may request a withdrawal of the application subject to review and approval by the board.

N. Individuals holding an unrestricted audiology or speech-language pathology license from another state shall be allowed to practice in Louisiana for five consecutive days within each renewal period upon proof of current licensure submitted to the board office 10 days prior to the scheduled activity.

O. When there is probable cause to believe that an applicant practiced illegally in Louisiana as an audiologist, speech-language pathologist, and/or speech-language pathology assistant, the board may offer a consent agreement and order which will grant the individual a license, subject to the following specified terms and conditions.

1. Within 90 days of the date of the consent agreement and order, the applicant shall take and pass an open book examination regarding R.S. 37:2650-2666, the board's rules and regulations, and ethical questions.

a. Open book test fee shall be \$30. The retest fee shall be \$10 per section.

b. Applicants have 4 1/2 hours to complete all sections of the test.

c. The open book examination or any section may be re-taken anytime within the 90 days.

d. Notice of the consent agreement and order shall be published and reported.

e. If the applicant fails to successfully complete all requirements set forth in the above paragraphs, the applicant's license shall be suspended without further notice until the board receives and accepts documentation of the applicant's completion of the consent agreement and order requirements.

P. Temporary Registration during a Declared Public Health Emergency

1. In a public health emergency lawfully declared as such by the governor of Louisiana, the requirement for a Louisiana license as an audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant may be waived by the board at that time to those out-of-state audiologists, speech-language pathologists, or speech-language pathology assistants, whose licenses, certifications or registrations are current and unrestricted in another jurisdiction of the United States, for a period of time not to exceed the duration and scope of R.S. 29:769(E), as more particularly set forth in this Section.

2. The following requirements for temporary registration may be imposed pursuant to the declared state of emergency and shall be in accordance with rules promulgated by the board.

3. An audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant not licensed in Louisiana, whose licenses, certifications or registrations are

current and unrestricted in another jurisdiction of the United States, may gratuitously provide audiology and speech-language pathology services if:

a. the audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant has photo identification and a license to verify a current and unrestricted license, certification or registration in another jurisdiction of the United States, and properly registers with the board prior to providing audiology or speech-language pathology services in Louisiana as follows:

i. the audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant is engaged in a legitimate relief effort during the emergency period, and provides satisfactory documentation to the board of the location site(s) that he/she will be providing gratuitous audiology or speech-language pathology services;

ii. the audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant shall comply with the Louisiana Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act, board rules, and other applicable laws, as well as practice in good faith, and within the reasonable scope of his/her skill, training, and ability; and

iii. the audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant renders services on a gratuitous basis with no revenue of any kind to be derived whatsoever from the provision of services within the state of Louisiana.

4. This temporary registration period shall not exceed 60 days at the discretion of the board, with the potential extension of up to two additional periods not to exceed 60 days for each extension as determined appropriate and necessary by the board.

5. All interested audiologists, speech-language pathologists, and speech-language pathology assistants shall submit a copy of their respective current and unrestricted licenses, certifications or registrations issued in other jurisdictions of the United States and photographic identification, as well as other requested information, to the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology for registration with this agency prior to gratuitously providing audiology or speech-language pathology services in Louisiana.

6. Should a qualified audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant registered with the board fail to comply with any requirement or condition established by this Section, the board may terminate his/her registration upon notice and hearing.

7. In the event an audiologist, speech-language pathologist, or speech-language pathology assistant fails to register with the board, but practices audiology or speech-language pathology, whether gratuitously or otherwise, then such conduct will be considered the unlawful practice of audiology or speech-language pathology and prosecuted accordingly.

Q. Volunteer Services. Individuals seeking to provide services on a voluntary basis shall hold an unrestricted out-of-state license in the area of practice, shall be deemed to meet all of the qualifications for license set forth by this Chapter, and shall abide by the Code of Ethics.

R. Licensing Military Members and Military Spouses

1. Expedited application for licensure in the area of audiology or speech-language pathology shall be granted to military members and military spouses licensed, certified or registered in another jurisdiction, while the individual is satisfying the requirement for licensure.

a. Applications shall be submitted in accordance with §109.

b. Military members shall submit with the application a copy of current military-issued identification and military orders.

c. Applicants who are the spouse of military personnel shall submit with the application a copy of current military-issued identification, marriage license, and an affidavit attesting that applicant is married to military personnel.

2. Military applicants shall submit:

a. military members—official, primary-source documentation verifying requirements met in accordance with §107 and §115;

b. military spouse—official, primary-source documentation verifying requirements met in accordance with §107 and §115.

3. Military members and military spouses shall be given a 60-day grace period for submission of official documentation from the date their notarized application and license fee are received by the board office, regardless of lapsed license status. The board may consider an extension of this grace period as per House Concurrent Resolution 74 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

4. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to any applicant receiving a dishonorable discharge or a military spouse whose spouse received a dishonorable discharge.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 14:707 (October 1988), amended LR 22:352 (May 1996), LR 27:199 (February 2001), LR 28:1974 (September 2002), LR 30:2311 (October 2004), LR 33:2193 (October 2007), LR 37:2393 (August 2011), repromulgated LR 37:2623 (September 2011), LR 39:1043 (April 2013), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 42:1666 (October 2016), LR 45:251 (February 2019), LR 48:2738 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2954 (December 2022).

§111. Application for Telehealth Registration

A. An application to practice audiology and/or speech-language pathology via telepractice shall be made on forms supplied by the board.

B. Criminal history record information must be submitted with the application form.

C. Proof of unrestricted, unencumbered current licensure granted in the home state based on standards at least equivalent to those in Louisiana shall be submitted.

D. Applicants shall provide official verification of licensure and/or registration status in each state, including any formal disciplinary action resulting in sanction and/or disciplinary proceedings which are pending.

E. The initial telehealth registration fee submitted to this board shall be paid by cashier's check, money order, or credit card.

F. Until an application has been approved by the board, the audiologist and/or speech-language pathologist shall not engage in delivery of telepractice services to Louisiana residents.

G. Applicants who have not obtained registration within one year of having submitted the application shall be deemed to have abandoned the application, resulting in mandatory reporting to the appropriate federal data bank. An applicant may request a withdrawal of the application subject to review and approval by the board.

H. In order for telehealth registration to remain current in Louisiana, the individual must maintain an unrestricted, unencumbered current license in another state, whose standards are at least equivalent to those in Louisiana. Telehealth registrants must report any previous or pending disciplinary actions in any state.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 48:2739 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2955 (December 2022).

§113. Criminal History Record Information

A. In addition to any other requirements established by regulation, an applicant is required, as a condition for eligibility for licensure/registration, to:

1. submit a full set of fingerprints, in a form and manner prescribed by the board;
2. permit the board to obtain state and national criminal history record information on the applicant;
3. submit the fee for state and national criminal history record information on the applicant.

B. Any and all state or national criminal history record information obtained by the board from the bureau or FBI which is not already a matter of public record shall be deemed non-public and confidential information restricted to the exclusive use of the board, its members, investigators, agents, and attorneys in evaluating the applicant's suitability and eligibility for licensure/registration. No such information or records shall, except with the written consent of the applicant or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, be

released or otherwise disclosed by the board to any other person or agency.

C. An applicant who denies the existence or extent of criminal history record information on an application, which is discovered by information, records, or documentation provided by the state police, FBI, or any other state, national, or foreign jurisdiction shall, in addition to the potential disqualification of licensure for any of the causes specified in §141 of this Chapter, be deemed to have provided false, misleading, or deceptive information, or false sworn information on an application for licensure, and to have engaged in unprofessional conduct, providing additional cause for the board to suspend or revoke, refuse to issue, or impose probationary or other restrictions on any license held or applied for by an applicant in the state of Louisiana culpable of such violation, pursuant to R.S. 37:2662.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 48:2740 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2955 (December 2022).

§115. Licensure by Reciprocity
[Formerly §111]

A. The board may waive the examination for applicants who present proof of current licensure in another state with standards equivalent to those of Louisiana.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 14:707 (October 1988), amended LR 22:354 (May 1996), LR 30:2311 (October 2004), LR 48:2740 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2956 (December 2022).

§117. Additional Requirements for International Applicants/Speakers of English as a Second Language
[Formerly §113]

A. Any document required to be submitted to this board with an application for a license shall be in the English language, or accompanied by a certified translation thereof into the English language.

B. As a condition of the board's consideration of the license application of a graduate of a foreign college or university, the applicant shall provide the board with an evaluation of the applicant's transcript from an approved credentials evaluation agency. A list of approved agencies, and their addresses, may be obtained from the board.

C. The essence of the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology is communication; therefore an applicant whose primary language is not English shall:

1. submit a passing score on a nationally recognized English proficiency examination as approved by the board. The passing score must have been obtained within the past two years;

2. an English proficiency assessment may be conducted in-person by the board or its designees as a condition for licensure;

3. at the board's discretion, the license may be conditionally granted subject to an English remediation plan and/or restrictions on practice

D. The clinical observation and clinical practicum for a speech-language pathologist educated outside the United States must consist of at least 400 patient contact hours, to include:

1. at least 25 hours in supervised observation prior to the clinical practicum. Patient contact hours in excess of the required minimum may be substituted for the required 25 hours of supervised observation;

2. at least 375 patient contact hours in speech-language pathology. Practicum experiences must be:

a. across the scope of practice in speech-language pathology;

b. with clients across the lifespan;

c. across the range of clinical severity.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 14:707 (October 1988), amended LR 22:354 (May 1996), LR 27:201 (February 2001), LR 30:2311 (October 2004), LR 37:2394 (August 2011), LR 48:2740 (November 2022), LR 48:2740 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2956 (December 2022).

§119. Requirements to Upgrade License [Formerly §115]

A. The provisional speech-language pathology licensee who has not passed the examination at the time of initial licensure shall submit the following to upgrade his/her license status:

1. an official copy of a passing score on the Educational Testing Service area examination;

2. verification of 36 weeks of full-time postgraduate professional employment/experience or its part-time equivalent in the field the license is held;

3. proof of supervision through date of upgrade (Form 100);

4. upgrade fee of \$30.

B. The provisional speech-language pathology licensee who has not completed the thirty-six weeks of postgraduate professional employment/experience at the time of initial licensure shall submit the following to upgrade his/her license status:

1. verification of 36 weeks of full-time postgraduate professional employment/experience or its part-time equivalent in the field the license is held;

2. proof of supervision through date of upgrade (Form 100);

3. upgrade fee of \$30.

C. The provisional speech-language pathology assistant shall submit the following to upgrade the license status:

1. proof of 225 supervised clinical practicum hours shall be on file in the board's office. Only direct supervision hours and/or university practicum hours may be counted towards the 225 hours;

2. upgrade fee of \$30.

D. The restricted audiology or restricted speech-language pathology licensee who holds a master's degree or its equivalent in audiology or speech-language pathology shall submit the following documents to upgrade their license:

1. an official copy of a passing score on the Educational Testing Service area examination;

2. verification of 36 weeks of post-graduate professional employment/experience or its part-time equivalent in the field in which the license is held;

3. proof of supervision through date of upgrade (Form 100);

4. upgrade fee of \$30.

E. Only those hours that have been obtained on-the-job as paid professional experience may be counted towards an upgrade.

F. Restricted speech-language pathology licensees who hold a bachelor's degree who wish to change their status to a provisional speech-language pathology license shall submit an application for license and meet the requirements of R.S. 37:2659.

G. Speech-language pathology assistant licensees who wish to change their status to a provisional speech-language pathology license shall submit an application for license and meet the requirements of R.S. 37:2659.

H. Postgraduate professional employment/experience which counts toward upgrading the license status will only be accepted from the date that the licensee's application was received by the board.

I. It is the responsibility of the licensee to submit the documents and make a written request for upgrade of their license status. Licensees shall complete all supervision requirements consistent with the license held and immediately thereafter submit appropriate supervision forms to the board office along with a written request for license upgrade and the upgrade fee. The licensee shall remain under supervision until the upgrade has been approved by the board.

J. If a passing score of the educational testing service's specialty area examination in speech-language pathology is not submitted within one year from the date of issuance of the license, a provisional licensee must apply for a speech-

language pathology assistant license. This individual may perform only those duties as specified in §121 and must be supervised in accordance with the requirements specified in §131.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 22:349 (May 1996), amended LR 27:197 (February 2001), LR 28:1971 (September 2002), LR 30:2312 (October 2004), LR 33:2194 (October 2007), LR 37:2394 (August 2011), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 45:255 (February 2019), repromulgated LR 45:433 (March 2019), LR 48:2740 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2956 (December 2022).

§121. Duties: Speech-Language Pathology Assistant License and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant License [Formerly §117]

A.1. All duties performed by the speech-language pathology assistant licensee or provisional speech-language pathology assistant licensee shall be assigned by a licensed speech-language pathologist and shall be supervised in accordance with the rules and regulations specified by the board. Caseload assignments shall be consistent with the knowledge base and training of the licensee for the performance of the following tasks:

- a. conduct speech-language screenings. All screening reports shall be cosigned and interpreted by the supervising speech-language pathologist;
- b. perform hearing screenings limited to a pass/fail determination, for the purpose of initial identification of disorders, following specified protocols as approved by the supervising speech-language pathologist;
- c. provide direct treatment which is within the level of training and experience as prescribed by the supervising speech-language pathologist to a caseload of patients/clients who demonstrate communication disorders. Supervision of treatment shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations specified by the board;
- d. follow treatment plans or protocols as developed and documented by the supervising speech-language pathologist;
- e. document patient/client progress toward meeting established objectives as stated in the treatment plan;
- f. schedule activities, prepare charts, records, graphs, or otherwise display data;
- g. perform checks and maintenance of equipment;
- h. with permission and guidance of the supervising speech-language pathologist, speech-language pathology assistants may participate in parent conferences, individualized educational program meetings (IEP), case conferences, interdisciplinary team conferences, and research projects. Provisional speech-language pathology

assistants may participate in these activities only with the supervising speech-language pathologist present.

- i. Speech-language pathology assistants may engage in telepractice as directed by their supervisor, provided all supervision guidelines are met. Provisional speech-language pathology assistants may not engage in telepractice.

2. Duties outside the Scope of Practice of a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

- a. The speech-language pathology assistant licensee and provisional speech-language pathology assistant shall not:

- i. perform clinical tasks without the knowledge and approval of the supervising speech-language pathologist;
- ii. conduct evaluations, even under supervision;
- iii. interpret test and assessment results;
- iv. screen, diagnose, or treat clients for feeding and swallowing disorders;
- v. demonstrate swallowing strategies or precautions to clients, family, or staff;
- vi. work with a communication or related disorder unless s/he has had sufficient coursework with appropriate supervised practicum in that area obtained through a regionally accredited educational institution or its cooperating programs;
- vii. provide patient/client or family counseling;
- viii. select and/or discharge patients/clients for services without the approval of the supervising speech-language pathologist;
- ix. disclose clinical or confidential information either orally or in writing to anyone not designated by the supervising speech-language pathologist and without the authorization of the patient/client or their designee;
- x. make referrals for additional services without the approval of the supervising speech-language pathologist;
- xi. participate in Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meetings without the supervising speech-language pathologist.
- xii. Provisional speech-language pathology assistants may not participate in parent conferences, Individualized Educational Program (IEP), Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meetings, case conferences, interdisciplinary team conferences, and research projects unless the supervising speech-language pathologist is present.
- xiii. Provisional speech-language pathology assistants may not engage in telepractice; however, the individual may function as a facilitator given appropriate training

3. The speech-language pathology assistant and the provisional speech-language pathology assistant shall not perform any clinical task without the knowledge and approval of the supervising speech-language pathologist.

4. Failure to comply with these rules and regulations may result in disciplinary action against the assistant and/or the supervising speech-language pathologist.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 30:2312 (October 2004), amended LR 33:2194 (October 2007), LR 37:2394 (August 2011), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 45:255 (February 2019), LR 48:2741 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2957 (December 2022).

§123. Fees

A. The board collects the following fees, which are non-refundable:

1. initial Louisiana license application—\$125;
2. dual license application—\$225;
3. renewal of license submitted on or before June 30, of each year—\$65:
 - a. dual licensure renewal—\$90;
4. delinquent renewal fee submitted between July 1 and July 31, of each year—\$130;
 - a. dual licensure renewal—\$180;
5. initial telehealth registration fee—\$50;
6. renewal of telehealth registration submitted on or before June 30, of each year—\$25;
7. renewal of telehealth registration submitted between July 1 and July 31, of each year—\$50;
8. licensure upgrade—\$30;
9. continuing education pre-approval fee for corporations or individuals who are not LBESPA licensees—\$50;
10. mailing lists—
 - a. \$200 for speech-language pathologists;
 - b. \$25 for audiologists;
 - c. \$25 for speech-language pathology assistants.
11. NSF or returned check—\$40;
12. open book test fee—\$30:
 - a. open book retest fee, per section—\$10;
13. publications to include law, rules, etc.—\$5 ea. plus postage and handling;
14. re-issuance of license or registration certificate—\$25;
15. subpoena within East Baton Rouge Parish—\$50:

a. subpoena plus state-allowed travel rate per mile outside East Baton Rouge Parish—\$50;

16. verification of license or registration (written)—\$10;

17. an additional fee may be charged for credit card transactions in accordance with state treasury rules.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the by the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 48:2742 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2958 (December 2022).

**§125. Renewals
[Formerly §121]**

A. All licenses and registrations shall be renewed annually by June 30, to avoid delinquent renewal fees.

B. Initial licenses and registrations issued during the last quarter of the fiscal year, i.e., April, May, and June, will not be required to be renewed during that fiscal year. No continuing education hours will be required of the licensee or registrant for that period.

C. Licensees shall list on their renewal form the licensees (i.e., provisional speech-language pathologists, restricted speech-language pathologists, restricted audiologists, speech-language pathology assistants, or provisional speech-language pathology assistants) and aides that they are supervising.

D. It is the licensee and registrant's continuing obligation to keep the board informed of his/her current mailing address.

E. Licensees shall participate in continuing professional education activities for each license period, July 1-June 30, in accordance with §127.

F. Inactive status is granted to licensees who are retired or who do not practice audiology or speech-language pathology during the fiscal year, July 1-June 30.

1. Licensees on inactive status may retain their license by payment of the annual renewal fee.

2. These licensees shall complete the affidavit on the continuing education report and submit it at the time of licensure renewal.

3. The licensee may submit the required five hours of continuing education each year he/she is on inactive status or submit all of the hours the year he/she returns to work in the profession.

4. Licensees on inactive status or who are retired shall not supervise individuals or otherwise engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology.

5. In order to resume the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, licensees on inactive status shall demonstrate completion of 5 clock hours of continuing education in the area of licensure for each year that inactive status was maintained (maximum of 25 hours). In addition, a

letter requesting a change to active status must be submitted to the board office prior to resuming the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology.

G. Licensees who hold a license requiring supervision and who are not working in the field of audiology and/or speech-language pathology shall submit a notarized statement at the time of license renewal attesting to the fact that they did not work in the profession during the license period.

H. The board may refuse to consider any renewal application which is not complete in every detail, including submission of every document required by the application form and instructions. The board may, in its discretion, require additional information as a condition for consideration of the application.

I. Delinquent Renewal

1. Delinquent requests for renewals will be accepted by the board through July 31, provided the delinquent renewal fee is paid in accordance with §123, and the continuing education requirements have been met.

2. A licensee whose license lapsed on August 1, and applies to reinstate prior to the following June 30, is required to submit a completed application, proof of continuing education, initial license fee and delinquent renewal fee in accordance with §123 and §127.

3. A licensee whose license lapsed on August 1, and applies for reinstatement after June 30, of the following year, is required to submit a completed application, proof of continuing education, and is subject to the initial license fee and the requirements of §127.

4. A telehealth registrant whose registration lapsed on August 1, must complete the initial application process for telehealth registration.

J. Conditional Renewal

1. Licensees who previously held a full, valid license which was obtained under the grandfather clause of Act 260 of the 1978 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, whether delinquent or lapsed, for a period not to exceed five years, shall be eligible for licensure renewal or reinstatement upon meeting the continuing education requirement and submitting the appropriate renewal fee in accordance with §123. If the license has lapsed for a period of more than five years, applicants shall reapply in accordance with the requirements enumerated in R.S. 37:2651 et seq., as amended by Act 892 of the 1995 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

2. Licensees who previously held a restricted license which was obtained under Act 260 of the 1978 Regular Session of the Louisiana legislature, whether delinquent or lapsed, shall be eligible for licensure renewal or reinstatement, upon meeting the continuing education requirement and submitting the appropriate renewal fee as required in accordance with §123 and §127.

3. Licensees who allow their license to lapse (August 1) shall submit documentation of completion of five clock hours of continuing education (maximum of 25 hours) in the area of licensure for each year that the license has lapsed in addition to meeting the license requirements enumerated in R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

4. Licensees who have allowed their license to lapse for a period of five years or greater, and do not hold a current audiology or speech-language pathology license in another state, must submit evidence of 25 continuing education hours directly related to the clinical practice of the license being sought and must have been obtained within the past 18 months.

5. Licensees who have allowed their license to lapse for a period of 10 years or greater, and do not hold a current audiology or speech-language pathology license in another state, must submit a passing score on the educational testing service's specialty area examination for audiology or speech-language pathology, as applicable to the license being sought, achieved no more than five years prior to the submission of the request for reinstatement.

6. Renewal of a license will not be granted until all requirements including mandated continuing education hours have been completed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 14:707 (October 1988), amended LR 22:351 (May 1996), LR 27:198 (February 2001), LR 28:1972 (September 2002), LR 30:2314 (October 2004), LR 33:2195 (October 2007), LR 37:2395 (August 2011), LR 39:1043 (April 2013), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 42:1667 (October 2016), LR 45:256 (February 2019), LR 48:2742 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2958 (December 2022).

§127. Continuing Education Requirements [Formerly §123]

A. Each licensee shall complete continuing professional education activities of at least 10 clock hours each license period, July 1-June 30.

B. Of the 10 hours, five shall be educational activities directly related to the scope of practice of the licensee and must be designed to increase the knowledge and skills in the area of licensure.

C. Of the 10 hours, five may be in areas related to the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology. Such activities shall increase knowledge and skills pertinent to practice. Examples include: billing; coding and reimbursement; record-keeping; ethics; supervision.

D. Audiologists who dispense shall ensure that at least 3 of the total 10 hours are in areas directly related to hearing aid dispensing, such as business/practice management, marketing, aural habilitation/ rehabilitation, diagnostic assessment, characteristics of hearing aids and their application, etc.

E. Dual licensees shall complete 15 hours per year with a minimum of five hours in audiology and five hours in speech-language pathology; the remaining five may be in areas related to the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology. Related activities shall increase knowledge and skills pertinent to practice. Examples include: billing; coding and reimbursement; record-keeping; ethics; supervision.

F. Out-of-state audiologists and speech-language pathologists who hold telehealth registration shall complete the continuing education requirements consistent with the license the individual possesses for the state in which the provider is located. Telehealth registrants residing in states which do not require continuing education for audiologists and/or speech-language pathologists shall complete the annual continuing education requirements specified in this Section and may be audited.

G. Continuing education events occurring in the month of June will be accepted for the collection period in which they occur or they may be counted in the following collection period which begins on July 1. Hours from one event may not be divided between two collection periods.

H. The graduated scale for the collection of continuing education hours is based on the date an applicant receives his/her initial license or registration.

License/Registration Received	Hours Required
April, May, June	0
January, February, March	3
October, November, December	6
July, August, September	10

I. In the case of extenuating circumstances, when the licensee does not fulfill the continuing education requirements, the licensee shall submit a written request for extension to the board for consideration.

J. Continuing education hours accrued during the applicant's grace period will be accepted.

K. Acceptable continuing education sponsors and activities that are directly related to the practice of audiology and/or speech-language pathology:

1. board-sponsored activities;
2. presentations that are directly in the area of communication disorders sponsored by professional organizations such as American Academy of Audiology (AAA), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), Louisiana Academy of Audiology (LAA), Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association (LSHA), Speech Pathologists and Audiologists in Louisiana Schools (SPALS), Louisiana Society for Hearing Aid Specialists, etc. Business meetings, luncheons, award ceremonies, receptions, and other non-content area events are not recognized as acceptable continuing education activities;
3. activities provided by ASHA-approved continuing education providers or AAA-approved continuing education activities that are directly in the area of communication disorders;

4. meetings of related professional organizations that are directly in the area of communication disorders (e.g., Council for Exceptional Children, International Dyslexia Association);

5. college courses in the area of licensure, with the exception of clinical practicum, taken for credit or official audit (3 semester hours or 6 quarter hours=10 hours of continuing education);

6. distance learning (video conferences, telephone seminars and internet courses sponsored by universities, schools, clinics, state agencies, hospitals, professional organizations, or related professional organizations) that are directly in the area of communication disorders;

7. workshops and in-services that are university, school, clinic, hospital or state agency sponsored (maximum of five hours in a related area) that are directly in the area of communication disorders. Only content area workshop and in-service time shall count as earned continuing education. Documentation of staff development content must be separated from employee meeting activities such as announcements, review of deadlines, event planning, and other non-content area activities.);

8. publication of an article in a peer-reviewed journal for the year in which it was published;

9. digital media (e.g. CD, DVD, online webinars, etc.) which is ASHA-approved or AAA-approved continuing education media that are directly in the area of communication disorders;

10. the presenting licensee may count 1 1/2 times the value of an activity the first time it is presented to allow for preparation time (example: a 3 hour workshop=4 1/2 hours). The activity will count for the actual hour value for each subsequent presentation of the same activity;

11. teaching at the college level in the area of communication disorders is not acceptable.

L. Pre-Approval Policy

1. Pre-approval is required for continuing education events that do not meet the requirements as listed under §127.K.1.-11, and pre-approval of continuing education events is required in those situations where it is unclear whether the topic is relevant to the profession or will further a professional's expertise in a particular area.

2. The licensee shall request pre-approval (minimum of 30 days in advance) of self-study activities, or other appropriate activities.

3. Individuals not licensed by LBESPA as well as corporations offering continuing education not addressed under §127.K., must submit a \$50 continuing education review fee along with the pre-approval request.

4. Licensees who elect to attend university classes/courses in audiology and/or speech-language pathology without payment of the university fee shall submit a self-study plan for pre-approval from the Louisiana Board

of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to receive continuing education credits.

5. Self-study activities in the area of communication disorders:

- a. digital media (maximum of 5 hours);
- b. reading of journal articles that contain self-examination questions. Articles shall be submitted for pre-approval (maximum of 5 hours).

6. Publication of diagnostic and/or therapeutic materials (maximum of 5 hours).

M. Recording of Continuing Education Activities

1. Licensees shall record all continuing education activities as prescribed by the board and submitted at the time of renewal.

2. Licensees shall maintain records of continuing education activities completed for three years.

3. Licensees shall not submit repeated continuing education activities for credit within a three-year period.

4. A percentage of licensees will be audited each year as a means of evaluating compliance with the continuing education requirements. The board may request, through random audit, verification of clock hours submitted, including information regarding content and attendance. If the title of the activity does not clearly state the content, a description and/or time-ordered agenda may be required.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 22:351 (May 1996), amended LR 27:199 (February 2001), LR 28:1973 (September 2002), LR 30:2314 (October 2004), LR 33:2196 (October 2007), LR 37:2395 (August 2011), LR 39:1043 (April 2013), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 42:1667 (October 2016), LR 45:257 (February 2019), LR 48:2743 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2959 (December 2022).

§129. Supervision Requirements for Restricted License and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology License [Formerly §127]

A. Restricted and provisional speech-language pathology licensees are required to undergo direct supervision by a licensed speech-language pathologist, licensed in accordance with R.S. 37:2659(B). Direct and indirect supervision must occur in every work setting in which the licensee is employed. An audiologist, licensed in accordance with R.S. 37:2659(A) may supervise these individuals for the purpose of hearing screening.

B. Prior to the initiation of supervision of an assistant or provisional assistant, training in the area of supervision is strongly recommended.

C. Prior to the initiation of supervision of a restricted or provisional licensee, training in the area of supervision is strongly recommended.

D. An individual may not be supervised by a provisional licensee, restricted licensee, assistant licensee, an individual on inactive status, a telehealth registrant, or an immediate family member.

E. Supervision must involve the direct participation of the supervisor in order for the supervisor to monitor, observe, evaluate, and make suggestions for improvement regarding the supervisee's professional employment.

F. Restricted and provisional speech-language pathology licensees must submit a supervisory agreement signed by the supervisor and supervisee as prescribed by the board. The form must be submitted to the board by the supervisee within 30 days of employment and submitted annually at the time of renewal. If there is a change in supervisor(s) at any time, a new supervisory agreement must be submitted to the board within 30 days of the change in supervision. If there are multiple supervisors for the same supervisee, all supervisors must sign the supervisory agreement.

G. Speech-language pathologists may share the supervision responsibility for Provisional or Restricted licensees, but each supervising speech-language pathologist shall complete and submit the necessary supervision forms.

H. Supervisory records, including supervision logs and other documentation of supervision, shall be maintained by both the supervisor and supervisee for a period of three years. Documentation of supervision may be requested by the board. Submission of inaccurate or falsified supervision documentation may result in disciplinary action.

I. The direct supervision of the licensee, whether employed full-time or part-time, shall include 16 hours annually.

1. At least eight shall be direct observation hours divided between the areas of diagnostics and management. The direct observations must be equal to or greater than a total of eight hours. Indirect supervision hours may include conferences, audio and video recordings, review of written records, staffings and discussions with other persons who have participated in the licensee's training.

2. For 12-month employees, two direct observation hours shall be conducted each quarter.

3. For nine-month employees, four direct observation hours shall occur in each semester. If the nine-month employment is extended for a period of time, additional direct as well as indirect supervision hours must occur.

J. Documentation of supervision shall be submitted annually at the time of license renewal on Form 100 provided by the board.

K. Licensees shall complete all supervision requirements consistent with the license held and immediately thereafter submit appropriate supervision forms to the board office along with an application requesting a license upgrade, along

with the upgrade fee. The licensee shall remain under supervision until the upgrade has been approved by the board.

L. The board will accept supervision provided out-of-state by an individual licensed or ASHA-certified in the area of practice. Supervision must be documented on Form 100.

1. Restricted and provisional speech-language pathology licensees who have not worked in Louisiana, may submit their clinical fellowship report as proof of supervision that was carried out during the license period. Otherwise licensees must submit at the time of license renewal, appropriate proof of supervision consistent with Louisiana supervision requirements.

M. Licensees who are not working in the field of speech-language pathology and who hold a license requiring supervision, shall submit a notarized statement at the time of license renewal attesting to the fact that they did not work in the profession during the license period.

N. All costs of supervision shall be borne by the licensee or his/her employer, but in no event will those costs be borne by the board.

O. When supervision requirements have not been met in accordance with §129, licensees shall complete additional months of supervision to replace months of incomplete supervision.

P. After three administrative complaints have been accepted by the board against a licensed supervisor, that supervisor may no longer be allowed to supervise for a period of five years.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 14:707 (October 1988), amended LR 22:352 (May 1996), LR 27:199 (February 2001), LR 28:1974 (September 2002) LR 30:2315 (October 2004), LR 33:2196 (October 2007), LR 37:2396 (August 2011), LR 39:1043 (April 2013), LR 48:2744 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2961 (December 2022).

§131. Supervision Requirements for Speech-Language Pathology Assistant and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Licensees [Formerly §127]

A. A supervising speech-language pathologist must have a minimum of one year of full-time professional speech-language pathology experience following the postgraduate professional/employment experience. Full time employment in a school system for the school year is considered to meet this requirement.

B. Prior to the initiation of supervision of an assistant or provisional assistant, training in the area of supervision is strongly recommended.

C. An individual may not be supervised by a provisional licensee, restricted licensee, assistant licensee, an individual

on inactive status, a telehealth registrant, or an immediate family member.

D. The supervision requirements specified in these regulations are minimum requirements. It is the responsibility of the speech-language pathologist to design and provide a supervision system that protects patient/client care and maintains the highest possible standards of quality.

E. Supervision must involve the direct participation of the supervisor in order for the supervisor to monitor, observe, evaluate, and make suggestions for improvement regarding the supervisee's employment.

F. The supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the assistant does not make decisions regarding evaluation, management and future disposition of clients.

G. The supervisor is responsible for initial consultation with the assistant regarding coursework and practicum experiences prior to caseload assignment. The supervising speech-language pathologist shall assign only those tasks for which the assistant has been trained.

H. Decision-making regarding specification of on-going treatment protocol and necessary modifications, is the responsibility of the supervisor. The level of supervision required is considered the minimum necessary to ensure appropriate patient/client care.

I. The supervising speech-language pathologist shall be readily available for consultation with the assistant licensee. This includes personal contact, telephone, or other means of communication.

J. Speech-language pathology assistants and provisional speech-language pathology assistants must submit a supervisory agreement signed by the supervisor and supervisee as prescribed by the board. The form must be submitted to the board by the supervisee within 30 days of employment. If there is a change in supervisor(s) at any time, a new supervisory agreement must be submitted to the board within 30 days of the change in supervision. If there are multiple supervisors for the same supervisee, all supervisors must sign a supervisory agreement.

K. Speech-language pathologists may share the supervision responsibility for speech-language pathology assistants or provisional speech-language pathology assistants, but each supervising speech-language pathologist shall complete and submit the necessary supervision forms.

L. Supervisory records, including supervision logs and other documentation of supervision, shall be maintained by both the supervisor and supervisee for a period of three years. Documentation of supervision may be requested by the board. Submission of inaccurate or falsified supervision documentation may result in disciplinary action.

M. The board will accept supervision given out-of-state by a licensed or ASHA certified speech-language pathologist in the area of licensure. Licensees must submit at the time of license renewal, appropriate proof of supervision consistent with Louisiana supervision requirements.

PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

N. Assistants who are not working in the field of speech-language pathology shall submit a notarized statement at the time of license renewal attesting to the fact that they did not work in the profession during the license period.

O. Although more than one speech-language pathologist may provide supervision of an assistant licensee and provisional assistant licensee, at no time may a licensed speech-language pathologist supervise or be listed as a supervisor for more than three assistant or provisional assistant licensees. When multiple supervisors are used, the supervisors are encouraged to coordinate and communicate with each other.

P. Provisional speech-language pathology assistants and speech-language pathology assistants must undergo direct supervision as well as indirect supervision in every work setting in which the licensee is employed.

Q. Documentation of supervision shall be submitted annually at the time of license renewal on Form 200 provided by the board.

R. Supervision Requirements for the Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

1. A minimum of one clock hour of direct supervision shall be completed in the primary work setting each week for each licensee. If the assistant is employed in more than one work setting, additional direct supervision must occur in the secondary work setting.

2. A minimum of one clock hour of indirect supervision shall be completed each week for each licensee. These methods should include, but are not limited to:

- a. specifying protocols for speech-language screenings and assessments conducted by the assistant licensee;
- b. specifying protocols for hearing screenings conducted by the assistant licensee;
- c. approving treatment plans or protocols and documenting approval;
- d. monitoring patient/client progress toward meeting established objectives;
- e. monitoring, scheduling, charting and data collection;
- f. directing maintenance of equipment;
- g. directing research projects, in-service training and public relations programs;
- h. conducting telephone conferences.

3. If circumstances prohibit a supervisor from completing the minimum supervision requirements (§131.R.1 and 2) in a given week, the remaining supervision shall be completed the following week in conjunction with the required supervision hours for that week.

4. When the supervising speech-language pathologist is unavailable for supervision for more than one week, arrangements shall be made for another qualified supervisor

or the speech-language pathology assistant shall be transferred to other duties.

5. Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Full-Time and Part-Time Supervision Requirements

Hours Worked	Required Direct Supervision	Required Indirect Supervision
21-40 hours	1 hour/week	1 hour/week
20 hours or less	1 hour/every 2 weeks	1 hour/every 2 weeks

6. Assistant licensees shall be supervised only by a speech-language pathologist licensed under the provisions of R.S. 37:2659(B) with the exception of hearing screenings which may be supervised by an audiologist, licensed under the provisions of R.S. 37:2659(A).

S. Supervision Requirements for the Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant

1. A minimum of three clock hours of direct supervision shall be completed in the primary work setting each week for each licensee. If the provisional speech-language pathology assistant is employed in more than one work setting, additional direct supervision must occur in the secondary work setting.

2. A minimum of two clock hours of indirect supervision shall be completed each week for each licensee.

3. These activities should include, but are not limited to:

- a. specifying protocols for speech-language screenings and assessments conducted by the assistant licensee;
- b. specifying protocols for hearing screenings conducted by the assistant licensee;
- c. approving treatment plans or protocols and documenting approval;
- d. monitoring patient/client progress toward meeting established objectives;
- e. monitoring scheduling, charting and data collection;
- f. directing maintenance of equipment;
- g. directing research projects, in-service training and public relations programs;
- h. conducting telephone conferences.

4. If extenuating circumstances prohibit a supervisor from completing the minimum supervision requirements (§131.S.1 and 2) in a given week, the remaining supervision shall be completed the following week in conjunction with the required supervision hours for that week.

5. When the supervising speech-language pathologist is out for more than one week, arrangements shall be made for another qualified supervisor or the provisional speech-language pathology assistant shall be transferred to other duties.

6. When supervision requirements have not been met, in accordance with §131 licensees shall complete additional months of supervision to replace months of incomplete supervision.

7. After three administrative complaints have been accepted by the board against a licensed supervisor, that supervisor may no longer be allowed to supervise for a period of five years.

8. Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Full-Time and Part-Time Supervision Requirement

Hours Worked	Required Direct Supervision	Required Indirect Supervision
21-40 hours	3 hours/week	2 hours/week
20 hours or less	1.5 hours/every 2 weeks	1 hour/every 2 weeks

9. Provisional assistant licensees shall be supervised by a speech-language pathologist licensed under the provisions of R.S. 37:2659(B) with the exception of hearing screenings which may be supervised by an audiologist, licensed under the provisions of R.S. 37:2659(A).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 14:707 (October 1988), amended LR 22:353 (May 1996), LR 27:200 (February 2001), repromulgated LR 27:1691 (October 2001), amended LR 30:2316 (October 2004), LR 33:2197 (October 2007), LR 37:2396 (August 2011), LR 48:2745 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2961 (December 2022).

§133. Independent Practice
[Formerly §129]

A. Licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists, by virtue of academic coursework, clinical practicum, and professional experience, are qualified to engage in the autonomous or independent practice of the professions. Individuals who hold a license, i.e., provisional, restricted, assistant or provisional assistant, mandating supervision during the practice of the professions may not engage in the autonomous or independent practice of audiology or speech-language pathology.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 33:2198 (October 2007), LR 48:2746 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2963 (December 2022).

§135. Telehealth
[Formerly §130]

A. Telehealth, regardless of where the service is rendered or delivered, constitutes the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology and shall require Louisiana licensure for in-state practitioners and telehealth registration for out-of-state licensed practitioners.

B. A provider of telehealth services shall be competent in both the type of services provided and the methodology and equipment used to provide the services.

C. A provider of telehealth services must use methods for protecting client information that include authentication and encryption technology.

D. The standard of care shall be the same as if the audiology or speech-language pathology services were delivered face-to-face. It is the responsibility of the provider to determine candidacy and to ensure that the client is comfortable with the technology being utilized.

E. The client shall be notified of telehealth services including but not limited to the right to refuse telehealth services, options for service delivery, and instructions on filing and resolving complaints, in all applicable jurisdictions.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 39:1044 (April 2013), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 42:1668 (October 2016), LR 48:2747 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2963 (December 2022).

§137. Hearing Aid Dispensing
[Formerly §131]

A. Audiologists who dispense hearing aids shall meet the coursework and practicum requirements for dispensing as specified in R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

B. Audiologists who dispense hearing aids shall maintain annual calibration records on audiometric equipment.

C. Audiologists who dispense hearing aids shall, regardless of the method of service delivery, comply with the following.

1. Audiologists shall ensure that a pre-purchase evaluation includes:

- a. a case history;
- b. an otoscopic examination;
- c. a basic audiological test battery conducted within the preceding six-month period in a sound-treated environment unless the patient's physical condition prohibits accomplishment of these procedures. The battery shall include:
 - i. basic comprehensive audiometry;
 - ii. appropriate tolerance testing;
- d. middle ear measurements shall also be obtained when indicated.

2. Audiologists shall provide the consumer with a minimum 30-day trial period on all new hearing aids purchased.

3. Audiologists shall inform the consumer of the total cost of the hearing aid, including any fees for returning the aid at the end of the trial period.

4. Audiologists shall conduct a post-fitting evaluation that includes functional gain measurements conducted in a

sound treated environment and/or real ear measurements unless the patient's physical conditions prohibit accomplishment of these procedures.

5. Audiologists who engage in the fitting or selling of hearing aids shall deliver to each person supplied with a hearing aid, a bill of sale which shall contain the dispenser's signature, address and license number, together with a description of the make, model and serial number of the hearing aid and the amount charged. The bill of sale shall also indicate whether the hearing aid is new, used, or reconditioned.

D. Licensed Audiologists who did not hold a doctoral degree and were not registered to dispense hearing aids prior to August 1, 2016 and who wish to include hearing aid dispensing as a component of their practice, must have proof of appropriate training, education and experience in the area of hearing aid dispensing. These audiologists who wish to include dispensing as part of their practice shall submit a self-study for pre-approval by the board. Upon culmination, the audiologist must submit a report documenting completion. An audiologist who meets the qualifications for licensure but lacks the coursework and practicum requirements necessary for dispensing of hearing aids may fulfill these requirements by:

1. Completing nine months of postgraduate professional employment/experience under the supervision of a licensed dispensing audiologist, and

2. Providing proof of the successful completion of a study course by the National Institute for Hearing Instruments Studies, or its equivalent. Equivalency for National Institute for Hearing Instruments Studies is defined as:

a. an individualized program of study that shall include:

i. hearing aid technology and dispensing courses sponsored by hearing aid manufacturers to include a minimum of 15 clock hours;

ii. workshops in the area of hearing aid technology and dispensing sponsored by professional organizations or individual practitioners to include a minimum of 15 clock hours;

iii. successful completion of university coursework in the area of hearing aid technology and dispensing.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 22:353 (May 1996), amended LR 27:201 (February 2001), LR 28:1975 (September 2002), LR 30:2317 (October 2004), LR 33:2198 (October 2007), LR 37:2398 (August 2011), repromulgated LR 37:2624 (September 2011), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 42:1668 (October 2016), LR 48:2747 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2963 (December 2022).

§139. Qualifications and Duties of Aides [Formerly §133]

A. Audiologists and Speech-language pathologists are legally, ethically, and morally responsible for the services provided by aides working under their direction.

B. Requirements for the use of aides follow.

1. A licensed audiologist or speech-language pathologist may utilize an aide who meets the following qualifications. The aide shall:

- a. be of good moral character;
- b. be at least 18 years old;
- c. possess appropriate communication skills;
- d. have a high school diploma or G.E.D.

2. The supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist is responsible for determining that the aide is qualified and prepared for the duties which s/he will be assigned. It is recommended that the aide be afforded continuing education opportunities. Appropriate areas of training may include:

- a. normal processes in speech, language and hearing;
- b. disorders of speech, language and hearing;
- c. record-keeping and data compilation;
- d. utilization of equipment and materials;
- e. professional ethics and their application to the aide's duties;
- f. administration of hearing screening tests.

C. Supervision

1. The licensed audiologist or speech-language pathologist shall provide periodic direct observation for each aide at least once per month during the initial year of the aide's employment. Speech-language pathology aides are required to undergo direct supervision by a licensed speech-language pathologist, licensed in the area in accordance with R.S. 37:2659(B). Audiology aides are required to undergo direct supervision by a licensed audiologist, licensed in the area in accordance with R.S. 37:2659(A). Audiology aides and Speech-language pathology aides may not be supervised by a provisional licensee, restricted licensee, assistant licensee, an individual on inactive status, a telehealth registrant, or an immediate family member.

2. The direct observation in subsequent years shall be established by the supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist on an individual basis but shall be no less than once every three months.

3. The supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist shall be readily available for consultation with the aide at all times.

4. Documentation of direct supervision shall be maintained by the supervising audiologist or speech-

language pathologist and shall be submitted to the board upon request.

5. The supervising audiologist or speech-language pathologist shall report to the board at the time of licensure renewal, the names and employment locations of aides.

D. The speech-language pathology aide may engage in activities limited to those that are planned and directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist. Providing that the preparation, training, and supervision are appropriate, the following tasks may be assigned to speech-language pathology aides:

1. setting up room and equipment;
2. clearing room and storing equipment;
3. preparing materials (such as making copies, typing forms) for use by the speech-language pathologist;
4. checking equipment to determine if the equipment is performing adequately;
5. transporting patients/clients to and from sessions;
6. assisting with field trips;
7. performing hearing screenings limited to pure-tone air conduction screening and screening tympanometry;
8. recording, charting, graphing, or otherwise displaying objective data relative to the patient's/client's performance.

E. The audiology aide may engage in activities limited to those that are planned and directed by the supervising audiologist. Providing that the preparation, training, and supervision are appropriate, the following tasks may be assigned to audiology aides:

1. setting up room and equipment;
2. clearing room and storing equipment;
3. preparing materials (such as making copies, typing forms) for use by the audiologist;
4. checking equipment to determine if the equipment is performing adequately;
5. transporting patients/clients to and from sessions;
6. assisting with field trips;
7. performing hearing screening tests and pure-tone air conduction threshold tests without interpretation;
8. recording, charting, graphing, or otherwise displaying objective data relative to the patient/client's performance.

F. Only the audiologist or speech-language pathologist shall exercise independent judgment in the provision of professional services. Specifically, the audiologist or speech-language pathologist may not delegate any of the following to the aide:

1. speech-language screening;

2. evaluation, diagnosis, or therapy with individuals with speech, language or hearing disorders;

3. interpretation of test and assessment results or discussion of confidential information despite the fact that this information may have been requested by the patient/client, parent or referring agency;

4. performance of any procedure for which the aide has not been trained.

G. Exemption. Aides employed on or before April 1996 may continue to operate under the provisions of Chapter 3, §§301-305 of the *Louisiana Register* 16:409 (May 1990) of the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 16:409 (May 1990), amended LR 22:355 (May 1996), LR 27:201 (February 2001), LR 28:1781 (August 2002), LR 30:2318 (October 2004), LR 33:2199 (October 2007), LR 48:2748 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2964 (December 2022).

§141. Disciplinary Actions

A. This board may refuse to issue, may suspend or revoke a license for the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology or otherwise discipline an applicant or licensee, upon finding that the applicant or licensee has violated any provisions of R.S. 37:2650 et seq., or any of the rules or regulations.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 48:2748 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2965 (December 2022).

Chapter 3. Impaired Practitioner Program

§301. Purpose and Scope

A. Upon voluntary disclosure or proof that an applicant or licensee has provided professional services while under the influence of alcohol or has used narcotic or controlled dangerous substances or other drugs in excess of therapeutic amounts or without valid medical indication, the board may offer the applicant or licensee the Impaired Practitioner Program in order to receive or renew the professional license. Participation in the program may be required as a prerequisite to initial application for licensure or continued practice in accordance with the conditions of any consent order, compliance hearing, or adjudication hearing. At no time while participating in the impaired practitioner's program shall an individual supervise other licensees.

B. The board may utilize its discretionary authority to require or exclude specific components of this program for participants based upon determination of the nature and severity of the impairment. Participation in the Impaired

Practitioner Program may consist of all or part of the following components:

1. a substance abuse assessment performed by a qualified, licensed health care professional within a prescribed period of time;

2. monitoring, including drug/alcohol screenings, with results submitted to the board, for a specified period of time. The frequency of screening and a deadline for submission of the screening results will also be specified. The name of the monitoring agency shall be submitted as requested by the board. Monitoring shall continue for a period of up to 36 months, as specified by the board;

3. suspension of the license or other action specified by the board upon receipt of any positive, unexplained screening results during the monitoring period;

4. mandatory weekly attendance at self-help meetings, such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous, for a specified period of time. Submission of a monthly log which meets the board's specifications will be required:

a. a monthly log must be submitted to and received by the board before the final business day of the month following completion of the required meetings. It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure that these logs are properly completed and received by the board by the designated date;

b. the monthly log requires documentation of the first name and first initial of the last name of the sponsor, and meeting dates and times;

5. therapy for substance abuse by a licensed, health care professional;

6. supervision of the licensee by a board-approved speech-language pathologist or audiologist at a frequency and duration determined by the board;

7. penalties for noncompliance as determined by the board.

C. The applicant or licensee will be responsible for executing all required releases of information and authorizations required for the board to obtain information from any monitor, treatment or service provider concerning the licensee's progress and participation in the program.

D. The applicant or licensee will bear the financial burden for all costs incurred in complying with the terms of this program including but not limited to therapy, assessments, supervision, drug/alcohol screens, and reproduction of treatment or other records.

E. The licensee shall notify the board office by telephone within 48 hours and in writing within five days of any changes of licensee's home address, telephone number, employment status, employer, supervisor, and/or change in practice at a facility.

F. In the event that a licensee relocates to another jurisdiction, the licensee will within five days of relocating be required to either enroll in the other jurisdiction's impaired practitioner program and have the reports required

under the agreement sent to the board, or if the other jurisdiction has no impaired practitioner program, the licensee will notify the licensing board of that jurisdiction that the licensee is impaired and enrolled in the Louisiana program. In the event the licensee fails to do so, the license will be suspended.

G. Violation of the terms or conditions of the program may result in the immediate suspension of the individual's license to practice or other penalties for noncompliance.

H. The board will, to the full extent permissible, maintain an agreement or consent agreement and order relating to the licensee's participation in the Impaired Practitioner Program as a confidential matter. The board retains the discretion to share information it deems necessary with those persons providing evaluation/assessment, therapy, treatment, supervision, monitoring or drug/alcohol testing or reports. Violation of any terms, conditions or requirements contained in any consent agreement and order, or board decision can result in a loss of the confidential status.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 30:2319 (October 2004), amended LR 37:2398 (August 2011), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 48:2749 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2965 (December 2022).

Chapter 5. Procedural Rules

§501. Investigation of Complaints

A. The board is authorized to receive from any person, a complaint(s) against licensees, registrants, applicants, or other persons engaging in practices which violate or are alleged to violate the provisions of R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

B. Any complaint bearing on a licensee or registrant's professional competence, conviction of a crime, unauthorized practice, mental competence, neglect of practice, or violation of state law or ethical standards where applicable to the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology shall be submitted to the board.

C. Once a written complaint is received, the board shall designate a board member consultant to assist in the investigatory process. The board member consultant will assist the investigator by providing information related to the area of practice. Following completion of the investigation, the investigator and the board member consultant may recommend disposal of the complaint informally through correspondence or conference with the licensee, registrant, and/or the complainant, which may result in a private letter of concern or a consent agreement and order. If the licensee or registrant stipulates to the complaint and waives her/his right to a formal hearing, the board may impose appropriate sanctions without delay.

D. The board's designated investigator shall have authority to investigate the nature of the complaint through conference, correspondence, and other investigative

procedures, directed to those parties or witnesses involved. The board's designated investigator shall send the involved licensee or registrant notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, of the investigation containing a short summary of the complaint. All subsequent letters to the involved licensee or registrant, all letters to the complainant, or any other witness, shall be sent with a designation "personal and confidential" clearly marked on the outside of the envelope.

E. The designated investigator shall conclude the investigation as quickly as possible, without compromising thoroughness. Unless good cause is shown by the designated investigator satisfactory to the board, which may extend the time for the investigation, the investigation and recommendations to the board shall be delivered to the board member consultant within 60 days of the date that the designated investigator first received the assignment from the board.

F. Following an investigation, the designated investigator shall report to the board member consultant and together they will make a recommendation to the board for either dismissal of the complaint or proceeding to an informal hearing, consent agreement and order, or formal hearing. Following the completion of the investigation, the board member consultant will be recused from final adjudication, deliberations, and voting.

G. If the designated investigator and board member consultant's recommendation for an informal hearing is accepted by the board, the designated investigator shall notify the licensee or registrant of the time, date, and place of the informal hearing and of the issues to be discussed. The licensee or registrant shall appear on a voluntary basis. The licensee or registrant shall be advised that the hearing will be informal, no attorneys will be present, and no transcript of the hearing will be made. Any witnesses who testify will not be placed under oath, and no subpoenas will be issued. The licensee or registrant shall be informed that any statements made at the informal hearing will not be used or introduced at a formal hearing, unless all parties consent. If the licensee or registrant notifies the designated investigator that s/he does not wish an informal hearing, or if the licensee fails or refuses to attend an informal hearing, the informal hearing shall not be held. In that event, the board shall initiate a formal disciplinary hearing.

H. A complaint may be resolved by:

1. a private letter of concern to the licensee, registrant, or other appropriate parties.

2. a consent agreement and order approved by the board and entered into by the licensee or registrant.

I. The designated investigator, along with the board member consultant, shall recommend to the board the initiation of a formal disciplinary hearing if the investigation discloses any of the following: the complaint is sufficiently serious to require a formal adjudication; the licensee or registrant fails to respond to the correspondence by the designated investigator concerning the complaint; the licensee or registrant's response to the designated

investigator discloses that further action is necessary; an informal hearing is held but does not resolve all of the issues; or the licensee or registrant refuses to comply with the recommended remedial action.

J. The board member consultant shall submit any recommended action to the board in brief, concise language, without any reference to the particulars of the investigation, to any findings of fact or any conclusions of law arrived at during the investigative process.

K. The board shall have the authority to delegate to the designated investigator any alleged violations of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Act, R.S. 37:2650 et seq., and any alleged violations of any and all rules and regulations adopted by the board pursuant thereto, prior to board action on those alleged violations. If requested by the board, the designated investigator shall submit to the board's executive director the complete investigation file. Final authority for appropriate action rests solely with the board including formal notification to the complainant, licensee, or registrant.

L. At no time shall the designated investigator investigate any case as authorized by the board where the investigator has any personal or economic interest in the outcome of the investigation, or is personally related to or maintains a close friendship with the complainant, the licensee, the registrant, or any of the witnesses involved. In such event, the designated investigator shall immediately notify the board, who shall appoint a substitute investigator for disposition of that particular case.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 17:373 (April 1991), amended LR 22:356 (May 1996), LR 30:2320 (October 2004), LR 33:2200 (October 2007), LR 37:2398 (August 2011), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 42:1668 (October 2016), LR 48:2749 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2965 (December 2022).

§503. Compliance Hearings

A. The board shall provide a compliance hearing to a rejected applicant for licensure or registration provided that the rejected applicant requests a compliance hearing in writing within 30 days of the receipt of the notice of rejection. The applicant's request for a compliance hearing shall state with specificity the reason(s) why the application should be accepted.

B. A licensee whose license has lapsed shall be entitled to a compliance hearing provided that the licensee requests one in writing within 10 days after receipt of the notice for the lapsed license

C. The purpose and intent of the compliance hearing is to provide a forum for the applicant, licensee, or registrant to present documentary evidence, in the form of affidavits, public records, official records, letters, etc., along with testimony under oath to establish that the applicant, licensee, or registrant does, in fact, meet the lawful requirements for

issuance of a license or registration, or the retention of the license or registration. The board shall have the authority to administer oaths, hear the testimony, and conduct the hearing. The applicant, licensee, or registrant may be represented by counsel, or may represent her/himself.

D. In any compliance hearing, the burden of proof shall rest with the applicant, licensee, or registrant.

E. Within 30 days after the compliance hearing, the board shall forward its final decision, including specific reasons thereof, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the applicant, licensee, or registrant.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 17:374 (April 1991), amended LR 22:357 (May 1996), LR 27:201 (February 2001), LR 30:2321 (October 2004), LR 37:2399 (August 2011), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 48:2750 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2966 (December 2022).

§505. Formal Disciplinary Hearings

A. If, after completion of the investigation, the board determines that the circumstances may warrant the withholding, denial, suspension, or revocation of a license or registration, or other disciplinary action, the board shall initiate a formal disciplinary hearing. The board shall promptly notify the attorney general who is authorized and directed to appear on behalf of the state. The hearing shall be held before the board only after the involved licensee or registrant is given at least 30-days' notice by certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice shall include the following:

1. a statement of the date, time, place, and nature of the hearing;
2. a statement of the legal authority and jurisdiction under which the hearing is to be held;
3. a reference to the particular sections of the statute and/or rules involved;
4. a short and plain statement enumerating the charges;
5. a statement advising the licensee of her/his right to be represented by legal counsel;
6. the names of the members of the hearing panel.

B. If the board is unable to state the charges in detail at the time the notice is served, the initial notice may be limited to a statement of the issues involved, thereafter, upon written request, a more definite and detailed statement shall be furnished.

C. The board shall arrange for a certified court reporter to make an accurate recording of all testimony presented and all documents entered into evidence at the hearing. A party wishing to file documents into evidence shall provide the court reporter with a copy marked for identification as an

exhibit and shall provide copies to each member of the hearing panel, the board's legal counsel, opposing counsel, as well as counsel for any joined parties, and/or any unrepresented parties.

D. By bringing a complaint, the complainant waives the privilege of confidentiality for the purpose of the formal disciplinary hearing.

E. The rules of evidence, authority to administer oaths, issue subpoenas, conduct discovery, and control confidential privileged information shall apply to the formal disciplinary hearing in the form specified by R.S. 37:2656, 2663, the rules and regulations promulgated by this board, and as specified in the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq.

F. It is the licensee and registrant's continuing obligation to keep the board informed of her/his whereabouts. Accordingly, if notice of the hearing cannot be delivered by mail because of a licensee or registrant's change of address and the new address is not provided to the board, the board may hold the hearing in the licensee or registrant's absence, after making reasonable efforts to obtain the licensee or registrant's new address.

G. Within 15 days of the licensee or registrant's receipt of notice, s/he may file a written answer to the notice, denying some or all of the charges, or offering any explanation or asserting whatever defense s/he deems applicable.

H. The board shall have discretion to consolidate one or more cases for hearing involving the same or related parties or substantially the same questions of fact or law. The board may also grant separate hearings if a joint hearing may be prejudicial to one or more of the parties. If hearings are to be consolidated, notice shall be given to all parties in advance of the hearing.

I. The presiding officer shall consider a motion to modify or quash any subpoena issued in connection with the hearing, provided that such motion is filed by certified mail, return receipt requested, with the board at its registered office not later than three days prior to the hearing date or the date scheduled for the deposition, if the subpoena was issued in connection with a deposition. Possible grounds to quash or limit the subpoena include, but are not limited to: testimony on material protected by privilege or state regulation or other law; burdensomeness that would not be justified in light of the evidence important to the case; undue hardship on a witness; vagueness; immateriality.

J. The burden of proof at a formal disciplinary hearing rests with the attorney general who is bringing the charge before the board. No sanction shall be imposed or order issued, except upon consideration of the entire record, as supported by and in accordance with reliable, probative, and substantial evidence. The standard of proof in all hearings before the board and for any review or examination of evidence provided by R.S. 49:957 or 958, shall be carried by a preponderance of the evidence.

K. If the board finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the withholding, denial, suspension, or revocation of a license or registration, or other disciplinary action is warranted, the board shall sanction said individual according to the provisions of R.S. 37:2662(B):

1. refuse to issue a license or registration;
2. refuse to renew a license or registration;
3. issue a public letter of reprimand;
4. require restitution of costs and expenses incurred by the board related to the enforcement of R.S. 37:2650 et seq.;
5. impose probationary conditions;
6. impose a fine for each violation not to exceed \$1,000 per violation;
7. suspend a license or registration;
8. revoke a license or registration;
9. restrict the license by limiting or reducing the scope of practice; and/or
10. otherwise discipline a licensee or registrant.

L. A final decision or order adverse to a party in an adjudication proceeding shall be in writing or stated in the record within 45 days of the formal procedure. A final decision shall include findings of fact and conclusions of law. Findings of fact, if set forth in statutory language, shall be accompanied by a concise and explicit statement of the underlying facts supporting the findings. Parties shall be notified by the board, either personally or by certified mail, return receipt requested, of any decision or order. Upon request, a copy of the decision or order shall be mailed to each party and to her/his attorney of record.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 17:374 (April 1991), amended LR 22:357 (May 1996), LR 30:2321 (October 2004), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 42:1669 (October 2016), LR 45:265 (February 2019), LR 48:2750 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2967 (December 2022).

§507. General Procedural Rules for Hearings

A. The board is empowered to issue subpoenas upon receipt of a written request from the licensee, registrant, or attorney general at least 15 days in advance of any scheduled hearing. The board shall issue said subpoenas upon receipt of said written request and receipt of any and all fees for subpoenas as provided for in §123.A. promulgated by the board.

B. The board may petition a court of competent jurisdiction for a contempt rule to show cause when there is a failure to comply with a subpoena.

C. The board shall elect from its membership a person to act as presiding officer of the hearing. The presiding officer shall have the power to regulate the discovery process; hold

pre-hearing conferences for the simplification or settlement of issues; convene the hearing; place witnesses under oath; take action necessary to maintain order; rule on motions and procedural questions arising prior to, during or after the hearing; rule on objections and admissibility of evidence; call recesses or adjourn the hearing; and prescribe and enforce general rules of conduct and decorum. The other board members may not delegate their decision making and fact finding duties to the presiding officer, nor shall the presiding officer have any greater weight in the decision making process than any other board member. The board's findings of fact and conclusions of law shall be signed by a majority of the hearing panel finding those facts and conclusions of law. Any member of the hearing panel disagreeing with those findings and conclusions may also file a dissent in the record with her/his decisions therefore.

D. Any board member having reason to believe that s/he is biased against one of the parties in the proceeding, or has a personal interest in the outcome of the proceeding, shall immediately notify the other board members and request to be disqualified. Any party to a hearing may file with the board an affidavit requesting a disqualification of a board member from the formal hearing because of the board member's bias or personal interest. As soon as possible, but no later than the beginning of the hearing, the majority of the board shall pass upon any request for disqualification. The concerned board member shall not participate in the deliberation of the board on the issue of disqualification, and shall not vote on the issue. If the board determines that there is no merit to the request for disqualification, the board shall proceed with the hearing. Any doubt concerning the fitness of a board member shall be resolved in favor of disqualification. In the event disqualification occurs, the board shall immediately request the governor to appoint a board member pro tem to replace the disqualified member for the hearing in progress only.

E. The parties to the hearing are urged, but not required, to confer prior to the hearing, through their respective counsel, or personally, to attempt to reduce or simplify the issues to be heard. The board shall honor any stipulations arrived at between the parties as proven facts at the hearing. The purpose at the pre-hearing conference is to insure that the hearing is not unusually delayed by receiving testimony or other evidence on matters which are not seriously in dispute between the parties.

F. The procedures as delineated by the Louisiana Department of Justice consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., regarding the conducting of hearings and proceedings shall be implemented. A copy will be provided to any interested party involved with the hearing upon receipt by the board of a written request therefore.

G. Parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq. Said discovery shall not unduly delay the hearing before the board.

H. For good cause shown, the board has discretion to extend or continue the time set for the hearing for such reasons as ill health, inability to obtain counsel, the complexities of the case, or such other matters deemed by the board to constitute good cause.

I. Upon request by either the licensee, registrant, or the attorney general, witnesses shall be sequestered and not allowed in the hearing chambers during the hearing or permitted to discuss their testimony with other witnesses prior to the conclusion of the hearing.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 17:374 (April 1991), amended LR 22:358 (May 1996), LR 27:201 (February 2001), LR 28:1975 (September 2002), LR 30:2322 (October 2004), LR 37:2399 (August 2011), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 48:2751 (November 2022), repromulgated LR 49:2967 (December 2022).

§509. Rehearing

A. A decision or order in a case of adjudication shall be subject to rehearing, reopening, or reconsideration by the board within 10 days from the date of its entry. The grounds for such action shall be either that:

1. the decision or order is clearly contrary to the law and the evidence;
2. the party has discovered since the hearing evidence important to the issues which s/he could not have with due diligence obtained before or during the hearing;
3. there is a showing that issues not previously considered should be examined in order to properly dispose of the matter; or
4. there is other good ground for further consideration of the issues and the evidence in the public interest.

B. The petition of a party for rehearing, reconsideration, or review and the order of the board granting it, shall set forth the grounds which justify such action. Nothing in this rule shall prevent rehearing, reopening, or reconsideration of a matter by this board in accordance with other statutory provisions applicable to the board, or, at any time, on the ground of fraud practiced by the prevailing party or of procurement of the order by perjured testimony or fictitious evidence. On reconsideration, reopening, or rehearing, the matter shall be heard by the board. The hearing shall be confined to those grounds upon which the reconsideration, reopening, or rehearing was ordered. If an application for rehearing shall be timely filed, the period within which judicial review, under the applicable statute, must be sought, shall run from the final disposition of such application.

C. If a petition for rehearing, reconsideration, or review is granted, the decision of the board is not final and therefore is not implemented until a decision is reached after the rehearing.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 17:374 (April 1991), amended LR 22:359 (May 1996), LR 30:2323 (October 2004).

§511. The Case Record

A. The case record shall include the following, plus other material that the board considers desirable to obtain:

1. all papers filed and served in the proceedings;
2. all motions filed, answers or objections thereto, and all decisions of the board in response to the motions;
3. all documents and other evidence accepted as evidence at the hearing;
4. statements of matters officially noticed;
5. notices required by statutes or rules, including notice of the hearing;
6. affidavits of service or receipts for mailing of process or other evidence of service;
7. stipulations, settlement agreements, or consent orders;
8. records of matters agreed upon at the pre-hearing conference;
9. orders of the board and its final decision;
10. actions taken subsequent to the decision, including requests for reconsideration and rehearing;
11. a transcript of the proceedings.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 22:359 (May 1996), amended LR 30:2323 (October 2004).

§512. Summary Suspension of License/Registration

A. The board may suspend an existing license or registration because of a person's conviction of a felony or misdemeanor if the crime directly relates to the duties and responsibilities of the licensee or registrant. The board may also suspend an existing license or registration if there are allegations of fact that the board believes demonstrates a substantial likelihood that the licensee or registrant poses a risk of harm to the public health, safety or welfare.

B. If the board finds that public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license or registration may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action. These proceedings shall be promptly instituted and determined.

C. Following the proceedings, the notice to summarily suspend an existing license or registration shall be serviced personally upon the respondent or by certified mail or by other reasonable means. The notice shall inform the licensee

or registrant of the opportunity, including the time and place, to appear before the board to show cause regarding why the license or registration should not be suspended. The opportunity for the licensee or registrant to be heard shall occur from 2 to 10 days following the summary suspension of the license or registration.

D. The proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with Louisiana's Administrative Procedure Act.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R. S. 37:2651-2666.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 33:2201 (October 2007), amended by the Department of Health, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 48:2751 (November 2022) repromulgated LR 49:2967 (December 2022).

§513. Declaratory Orders

A. Any party or person deemed to be governed by or under the jurisdiction of the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Act, R.S. 37:2650 et seq., may apply to the board for a declaratory order or ruling in order to determine the applicability of a statutory provision, rule of this board, or ethical consideration of this board, to said party or person. The board shall issue the declaratory order or ruling in connection with the request by majority vote of the board, signed and mailed to the requesting party. The board may seek an opinion of legal counsel or the attorney general in connection with the request.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 22:359 (May 1996), amended LR 30:2323 (October 2004).

§515. Judicial Review

A. A person who is aggrieved by a final decision or order in an adjudication proceeding is entitled to judicial review whether or not s/he has applied to the board for rehearing. A preliminary, procedural, or intermediate board action or ruling is immediately reviewable if review of the final board decision would not provide an adequate remedy and would inflict irreparable injury.

B. Proceedings for review shall be instituted by filing a petition in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court for the Parish of East Baton Rouge within 30 days after mailing of notice of the final decision by the board or, if rehearing is requested, within 30 days after the decision thereon. Copies of the petition shall be served upon the board and all parties of record.

C. The filing of the petition does not itself stay enforcement of the board decision. The board may grant, or the reviewing court may order, a stay upon appropriate terms.

D. Within 30 days after the service of the petition on the board or within further time allowed by the court, the board shall transmit to the reviewing court a certified copy of the entire record of the proceeding under review. By stipulation

of all parties, the record may be shortened. A party unreasonably refusing to stipulate to limit the record may be taxed by the court for the additional costs.

E. If, before the date set for hearing, application is made to the court for leave to present additional evidence, and it is shown that the additional evidence is material and that there were good reasons for failure to present it in the proceeding before the board, the court may order that the additional evidence be taken before the board upon conditions determined by the court. The board may modify its finding and decision by reason of the additional evidence and shall file that evidence and any modifications, new findings, or decisions with the reviewing court.

F. The review shall be conducted by the court without a jury and shall be confined to the record. In cases of alleged irregularities in procedure before the board, not shown in the record, proof thereon may be taken in the court. The court, upon request, shall hear oral argument and shall receive written briefs.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 22:359 (May 1996), amended LR 30:2323 (October 2004).

§517. Appeals

A. An aggrieved party may obtain a review of any final judgment of the Nineteenth Judicial District Court by appeal to the Court of Appeal for the First Circuit. The appeal shall be taken as in other civil cases.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 22:360 (May 1996), amended LR 30:2324 (October 2004).

Chapter 7. Code of Ethics

§701. Preamble

A. The Code of Ethics of the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology specifies professional standards that govern clinical and scientific practice, direct professional conduct, provide for proper implementation of professionals' responsibilities to those served, and ensure the welfare of the consumer.

B. Any action that violates the intent and purpose of this code shall be considered unethical. Although the Code of Ethics cannot be inclusive of all specific situations, failure to delineate any particular responsibility or practice in this Code of Ethics shall not be construed as denial of the existence of such responsibilities or practices.

C. Principles of ethics form the underlying moral basis for the Code of Ethics. Individuals shall observe these principles as affirmative obligations under all conditions of professional activity.

PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

D. Rules of ethics are specific statements of minimally acceptable as well as unacceptable professional conduct which are applicable to all individuals.

E. Rules of Ethics for Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology, Provisional Speech-Language Pathology, and Restricted Speech-Language Pathology Licensees

1. Principle of Ethics I. Licensees shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve professionally or who are participants in research and scholarly activities, provide professional services with honesty and compassion, and respect the rights of those served. The licensee shall take all reasonable precautions to avoid harm to the individual served professionally.

a. Individuals shall provide all clinical services and scientific activities competently.

b. Individuals shall use every resource, including interprofessional collaboration and referral when applicable, to ensure that appropriate service is provided.

c. Individuals shall not discriminate in the delivery of professional services or in the conduct of research and scholarly activities on the basis of race, ethnicity, citizenship, sex, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, disability, culture, language, or dialect.

d. Individuals shall not misrepresent their credentials nor those under their supervision including aides, assistants, technicians, other support personnel, students, research interns, or individuals completing the postgraduate professional employment/experience, and they shall fully inform those they serve professionally of the name, role, and credentials of persons providing services.

e. Individuals may delegate tasks related to the provision of clinical services to students, aides, assistants, technicians, or other support personnel only if those persons are adequately trained and appropriately supervised. The responsibility for the welfare of those served remains with the fully licensed individual.

f. Individuals shall not delegate tasks that require the unique skills, knowledge, judgment or credentials that are within the scope of practice of their profession to aides, assistants, technicians, other support personnel or nonprofessionals over whom they have supervisory authority.

g. Individuals shall obtain consent from the persons they serve only after a description of and discussion about the nature and possible risks and effects of services to be rendered, technology to be employed, and products to be dispensed. Consumers shall also be informed about possible effects of not engaging in treatment or following clinical recommendations. When the consumer is incapable of providing informed consent, individuals should seek authorization from a legally authorized/appointed representative or family member.

h. Individuals shall enroll and include persons as participants in research only if participation is voluntary, without coercion, and with informed consent.

i. Individuals shall accurately represent the intended purpose of a service, product, or research endeavor and shall abide by established standards for clinical practice and the responsible conduct of research.

j. Individuals shall evaluate the effectiveness of services rendered, technology employed, and products dispensed and shall provide services or dispense products only when benefit can reasonably be expected.

k. Individuals shall not guarantee, directly or by implication, the results of any treatment or procedure; however, they may make a reasonable statement of prognosis.

l. Individuals shall use independent and evidence-based clinical judgment, keeping paramount the welfare of those served.

m. Individuals shall not provide clinical services solely by correspondence but may provide services via telepractice consistent with professional standards and state and federal regulations.

n. Individuals shall protect the confidentiality of any professional or personal information about persons served professionally or participants involved in research and scholarly activities, and may disclose confidential information only when doing so is necessary to protect the welfare of the person or of the community, is legally authorized, or is otherwise required by law.

o. Individuals shall protect the confidentiality and security of records of professional services rendered, research and scholarly activities conducted, and products dispensed. Access to these records shall be allowed only when doing so is necessary to protect the welfare of the person or of the community, is legally authorized, or is otherwise required by law.

p. Individuals shall maintain timely records and accurately record and bill for services provided and products dispensed, and shall not misrepresent services rendered, products dispensed, or research and scholarly activities conducted.

q. Individuals whose professional practice is adversely affected by substance abuse or other health-related conditions are impaired practitioners and shall seek professional assistance and, where appropriate, withdraw from the affected areas of practice.

r. Individuals who have knowledge a practitioner is unable to provide professional services with reasonable skill and safety shall report this information to the appropriate authority including the licensure board.

s. Individuals shall provide reasonable notice and information about alternatives for obtaining care in the event that the individual can no longer provide professional services.

2. Principle of Ethics II. Individuals shall honor their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of professional competence and performance consistent with prevailing practice standards.

a. Individuals shall engage in only those aspects of the professions that are within the scope of their practice and competence, considering their level of licensure, registration, education, training and experience.

b. Individuals who engage in research shall comply with institutional, state, and federal regulations that address any aspects of research.

c. Individuals shall enhance and refine their professional competence and expertise through engagement in lifelong learning applicable to their professional activities and skills.

d. Individuals in administrative or supervisory roles shall not require or permit their professional staff to provide services or conduct research activities that exceed their competence, education, training, experience, and licensure status.

e. Individuals in administrative or supervisory roles shall not require or permit their professional staff to provide services or conduct clinical activities that compromise their independent and objective professional judgment.

f. Individuals shall make use of technology and instrumentation consistent with accepted professional practice guidelines and shall ensure that all technology and instrumentation used to provide services or to conduct research and scholarly activities are in proper working order and are properly calibrated. When such technology is not available, an appropriate referral should be made.

3. Principle of Ethics III. Individuals shall honor their responsibility to the public when advocating for communication, swallowing, and vestibular needs of the public, and shall provide accurate information involving any aspect of the professions.

a. Individuals shall not misrepresent their credentials, competence, education, training, experience, or scholarly contributions.

b. Individuals shall avoid engaging in conflicts of interest whereby personal, financial, or other considerations have the potential to influence or compromise professional judgment and objectivity.

c. Individuals shall not misrepresent research and scholarly activities, diagnostic information, services rendered, results of services provided, products dispensed, or the effects of products dispensed.

d. Individuals shall not defraud through intent, ignorance, or negligence, or engage in any scheme to defraud in connection with obtaining payment, reimbursement, or grants and contracts for services provided, research conducted, or products dispensed.

e. Individuals' statements to the public shall provide accurate and complete information about the nature and

management of communication disorders, about the professions, about professional services, about products, and about research and scholarly activities.

f. Individuals' statements to the public shall adhere to prevailing professional norms and shall not contain misrepresentations when advertising, announcing, and promoting their professional services and products or when reporting research results.

g. Individuals shall not make false statements regarding areas of professional practice, and shall complete all materials honestly and without omission.

4. Principle of Ethics IV. Individuals shall uphold the dignity and autonomy of the professions, maintain collaborative and harmonious interprofessional and intraprofessional relationships, and accept the professions' self-imposed standards.

a. Individuals shall work collaboratively, when appropriate, with members of one's own profession and members of other professions to deliver the highest quality of care.

b. Individuals shall exercise independent professional judgment in recommending and providing professional services when an administrative mandate, referral source, or prescription prevents keeping the welfare of persons served paramount.

c. Individuals' statements to colleagues about professional services, research results, and products shall adhere to prevailing professional standards and shall contain no misrepresentations.

d. Individuals shall not engage in any form of conduct that adversely reflects on the professions or on the individual's fitness to serve persons professionally.

e. Individuals shall not engage in dishonesty, negligence, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

f. Applicants for licensure or registration, and individuals making disclosures shall not make false statements and shall complete all application and disclosure materials honestly and without omission.

g. Individuals shall not engage in any form of harassment, power abuse, or sexual harassment.

h. Individuals shall not engage in sexual activity with students, patients/clients, research participants, speech-language pathology assistants, aides, or licensees over whom they exercise professional authority or power.

i. Individuals shall not allow anyone under their supervision to engage in any practice that violates any provision of the practice act or Rules and Regulations including the Code of Ethics.

j. Individuals shall assign credit only to those who have contributed to a publication, presentation, protocol, process, or product. Credit shall be assigned in proportion to the contribution and only with the contributor's consent.

PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS

k. Individuals shall not engage in plagiarism and shall reference the source when using other persons' ideas, research, presentations, or products in written, oral, or any other media presentation or summary.

l. Individuals shall not discriminate in their relationships with colleagues, assistants, other support personnel, students, and members of other professions and disciplines on the basis of race, ethnicity, citizenship, sex, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, disability, culture, language, or dialect.

m. Individuals shall comply with local, state, and federal laws and regulations applicable to professional practice, research ethics, and the responsible conduct of research.

n. Individuals shall inform the board of any violations of the practice act and the Rules and Regulations including the Code of Ethics.

o. Individuals shall cooperate fully with the board on matters of professional conduct relative to the practice act and the Rules and Regulations including the Code of Ethics, and shall not make false statements of fact or withhold relevant facts necessary to fairly adjudicate complaints.

p. Individuals who have been publicly sanctioned or denied a license, registration, or a professional credential by any professional association, professional licensing authority or board, or other professional regulatory body shall self-report by notifying the board in writing within 30 days of the final action or disposition. Such written notification shall consist of a certified copy of the final action, sanction, or disposition.

q. Individuals who have been convicted, been found guilty, or entered a plea of *nolo contendere* to any misdemeanor involving dishonesty, physical harm or the threat of physical harm to the person or property of another, or any felony, shall self-report by notifying the Board in writing within 30 days of the conviction, plea, or finding of guilt. Such written notification shall consist of a certified copy of the conviction, plea, *nolo contendere* record, or minute/docket entry.

F. Rules of Ethics for Speech-Language Pathology Assistant and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Licensees

1. Principle of Ethics I. Licensees shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve or who are participants in research and scholarly activities, provide services with honesty and compassion, and respect the rights of those served. The licensee shall take all reasonable precautions to avoid harm to the individual served.

a. Individuals shall provide clinical services and scientific activities competently, and engage only in those activities prescribed by the supervising speech-language pathologist.

b. Individuals shall not discriminate in the delivery of services or in the conduct of research and scholarly activities on the basis of race, ethnicity, citizenship, sex, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, disability, culture, language, or dialect.

c. Individuals shall not misrepresent their credentials and shall fully inform those they serve of their name, role, and credentials.

d. Speech-language pathology assistants shall not interpret test or assessment results, guarantee results, make referrals, discharge patients/clients, nor provide patient/client or family counseling.

e. Provisional speech-language pathology assistant licensees shall not provide services via telepractice, interpret test or assessment results, guarantee results, make referrals, discharge patients/clients, provide patient/client or family counseling.

f. Individuals shall protect the confidentiality of clinical or personal information about persons served or participants involved in research and scholarly activities, and shall not disclose confidential information orally or in writing to anyone not designated by the supervising speech-language pathologist and without the authorization of the patient/client or their designee.

g. Individuals shall protect the confidentiality and security of records of services rendered, research and scholarly activities conducted, and products dispensed. Access to these records shall not be allowed unless directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist.

h. Individuals shall maintain timely and adequate records of services rendered, shall not charge for services not rendered, and shall not misrepresent services rendered, or research and scholarly activities conducted.

i. Individuals whose services are adversely affected by substance abuse or other health-related conditions are impaired practitioners and shall seek professional assistance and, where appropriate, withdraw from the affected areas of practice.

j. Individuals who have knowledge that a licensee is unable to provide services with reasonable skill and safety shall report this information to the appropriate authority including the licensure board.

2. Principle of Ethics II. Individuals shall honor their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of competence and performance.

a. Individuals shall engage in only those aspects of service provision that are within the scope of their practice and competence, considering their level of licensure, education, training and experience.

b. Individuals shall hold the appropriate qualifications for the area(s) in which they are providing services. Individuals shall engage in lifelong learning throughout their careers.

c. Individuals shall not provide services unless appropriately supervised.

d. Individuals shall not provide services for which the licensee has not been properly prepared.

e. Individuals shall utilize technology and instrumentation as directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist, ensuring that proper working order is maintained and calibration has been established.

3. Principle of Ethics III. Individuals shall honor their responsibility to the public by providing accurate information in all communications.

a. Individuals shall not misrepresent their credentials, competence, education, training or experience.

b. Individuals shall not participate in professional activities that constitute a conflict of interest.

c. Individuals shall not misrepresent research and scholarly activities, services rendered or any information, or engage in any scheme or maneuver to defraud in connection with obtaining payment or reimbursement for services.

d. Individuals shall not make false statements regarding areas of practice, and shall complete all materials and documents honestly and without omission.

4. Principle of Ethics IV. Individuals shall honor their responsibilities and their relationships with colleagues and members of other professions and disciplines. Individuals shall maintain harmonious interprofessional and intraprofessional relationships and accept the standards delineated for assistants.

a. Individuals' statements to colleagues about services, research, or products shall adhere to prevailing standards and contain no misrepresentations.

b. Individuals shall not engage in dishonesty, negligence, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

c. Applicants for licensure and individuals making disclosures shall not make false statements and shall complete all application and disclosure materials honestly and without omission.

d. Individuals shall not engage in any form of harassment, power abuse, or sexual harassment, or any other form of conduct that adversely reflects on service delivery or on the individual's fitness to serve persons.

e. Individuals shall not engage in sexual activity with a patient/client or research participant.

f. Individuals shall assign credit only to those who have contributed to a publication, presentation, protocol,

process, or product. Credit shall be assigned in proportion to the contribution and only with the contributor's consent.

g. Individuals shall not engage in plagiarism and shall reference the source when using other persons' ideas, research, presentations, or products in written, oral, or any other media presentation or summary.

h. Individuals shall not discriminate in their relationships with colleagues and members of other professions and disciplines on the basis of race, ethnicity, citizenship, sex, gender identity/gender expression, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, disability, culture, language or dialect.

i. Individuals shall comply with local, state, and federal laws and regulations applicable to practice and research.

j. Individuals shall inform the board of any violations of the practice act or the Rules and Regulations including the Code of Ethics.

k. Individuals shall cooperate fully with the board on matters of professional conduct relative to the practice act or the Rules and Regulations including the Code of Ethics, and shall not make false statements of fact or withhold relevant facts necessary to fairly adjudicate complaints.

l. Individuals who have been publicly sanctioned or denied a license or a professional credential by any professional association, professional licensing authority or board, or other professional regulatory body shall self-report by notifying the Board in writing within thirty (30) days of the final action or disposition. Such written notification shall consist of a certified copy of the final action, sanction, or disposition.

m. Individuals who have been convicted, been found guilty, or entered a plea of nolo contendere to any misdemeanor involving dishonesty, physical harm or the threat of physical harm to the person or property of another, or any felony, shall self-report by notifying the Board in writing within thirty (30) days of the conviction, plea, or finding of guilt. Such written notification shall consist of a certified copy of the conviction, plea, nolo contendere record, or minute/docket entry.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 17:370 (April 1991), amended LR 22:360 (May 1996), LR 30:2324 (October 2004), LR 33:2201 (October 2007), LR 37:2399 (August 2011), LR 39:1044 (April 2013), LR 48:2751 (November 2022). repromulgated LR 49:2968 (December 2022).