

1 AN ACT relating to speech-language pathologists.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 → Section 1. KRS 334A.020 is amended to read as follows:

4 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 5 (1) "Assisting in the practice of speech pathology" means the provision of certain
6 specific components of a speech or language service program provided by a speech-
7 language pathology assistant under the supervision and direction of an appropriately
8 qualified supervisor;
- 9 (2) "Audiologist" means one who is licensed to practice audiology. An audiologist may
10 describe himself or herself to the public by any title or description of services
11 incorporating the words "audiologist," "audiology," "audiological," "hearing
12 center," "hearing clinic," "hearing clinician," "hearing therapist," "audiometry,"
13 "audiometrist," "audiometrics," "otometry," "otometrist," "aural rehabilitationist,"
14 or "hearing conservationist";
- 15 (3) "Board" means the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology;
- 16 (4) "Continuing professional education" in speech-language pathology and audiology
17 consists of planned learning experiences beyond a basic educational program
18 leading to a degree. These experiences are designed to promote knowledge, skills,
19 and attitudes of speech-language pathology and audiology practitioners to enable
20 them to provide professional services in their areas of training that are based on
21 current research and best practices;
- 22 (5) "Interim license" means a license issued by the board pursuant to KRS 334A.035 to
23 a person for the purpose of completing the ~~supervised~~ postgraduate professional
24 experience required under that section prior to an application for licensure as a
25 speech-language pathologist or a speech-language pathology assistant;
- 26 (6) "Person" means any individual, organization, or corporate body, except that only
27 individuals can be licensed under this chapter;

- 1 (7) "Practice of audiology" means the application of principles, methods, and
2 procedures of measurement, testing, appraisal, prediction, consultation, counseling,
3 and instruction related to hearing and disorders of hearing for the purpose of
4 modifying communicative disorders involving speech, language, auditory behavior,
5 or other aberrant behavior related to hearing loss; planning, directing, conducting,
6 or participating in identification and hearing conservation programs; and
7 habilitative and rehabilitative programs, including hearing aid recommendations
8 and evaluation, prescribing, ordering the use of, selling and fitting hearing
9 instruments, including the selling and fitting of both prescription hearing aids and
10 over-the-counter hearing aids, auditory training, or speech reading;
- 11 (8) "Practice of speech pathology" means the application of principles, methods, and
12 procedures for the measurement, testing, audiometric screening, identification,
13 appraisal, determination of prognosis, evaluation, consultation, remediation,
14 counseling, instruction, and research related to the development and disorders of
15 speech, voice, verbal and written language, cognition/communication, or oral and
16 pharyngeal sensorimotor competencies for the purpose of designing and
17 implementing programs for the amelioration of these disorders and conditions. Any
18 representation to the public by title or by description of services, methods, or
19 procedures for the evaluation, counseling, remediation, consultation, measurement,
20 testing, audiometric screening, identification, appraisal, instruction, and research of
21 persons diagnosed with conditions or disorders affecting speech, voice, verbal, and
22 written language, cognition/communication, or oral and pharyngeal sensorimotor
23 competencies shall be considered to be the practice of speech-language pathology;
- 24 (9) "Speech-language pathologist" means one who practices speech-language
25 pathology. A speech-language pathologist may describe himself or herself to the
26 public by any title or description of services incorporating the words "speech-
27 language pathologist," "speech-language pathology," "speech-language therapy,"

1 "speech-language correction," "speech-language correctionist," "speech-language
 2 therapist," "speech clinic," "speech clinician," "speech pathologist," "language
 3 pathologist," "language pathology," "language therapist," "logopedics,"
 4 "logopedist," "communicology," "communicologist," "aphasiologist," "voice
 5 therapy," "voice therapist," "voice pathology," "voice pathologist," "phoniatriest,"
 6 "communication disorders," or "verbal therapist";

7 (10) "Speech-language pathology assistant" means one who assists in the practice of
 8 speech-language pathology only under the supervision and direction of an
 9 appropriately qualified supervisor and only within the public school system in the
 10 Commonwealth. Any speech-language pathology services provided without
 11 appropriate supervision or outside the public school system shall be deemed to be
 12 the unlicensed practice of speech-language pathology and shall subject the
 13 offending party to penalties established in KRS 334A.990;

14 (11) "Supervisor" means a person who holds a Kentucky license as a speech-language
 15 pathologist or who holds Education Professional Standards Board master's level
 16 certification as a teacher of exceptional children in the areas of speech and
 17 communication disorders as established by administrative regulation; and

18 (12) "Temporary license" means a license that may be issued by the board administrator
 19 pursuant to KRS 334A.181 to any applicant who has met all the requirements for
 20 permanent licensure in accordance with that section.

21 ➔ Section 2. KRS 334A.035 is amended to read as follows:

22 (1) (a) A person who has a Master's degree in the area of speech-language pathology
 23 or communication disorders, or is currently enrolled in a doctoral degree
 24 program with emphasis in speech-language pathology or communication
 25 disorders, or has substantive equivalent course work as defined by the board's
 26 administrative regulations and who has completed supervised direct clinical
 27 practicum with individuals presenting a variety of disorders of communication

1 and swallowing, the experience being obtained with a training institution or in
 2 one (1) of its cooperating programs, ~~may~~shall apply for an interim license
 3 during the time that person is completing postgraduate professional
 4 experience deemed necessary by the board~~. The postgraduate professional~~
 5 ~~experience shall be completed under the supervision of a speech-language~~
 6 ~~pathologist who holds a Kentucky license or certification by other accrediting~~
 7 ~~bodies, at the discretion of the board.~~

8 (b) A person with interim licensure shall make every effort to take and pass a
 9 national examination in speech-language pathology approved by the board at
 10 the time of the application for licensure. If unsuccessful with the examination,
 11 the licensee shall submit documentation of the applicant's preparation to take
 12 the national examination and continue to practice under supervision in
 13 accordance with this section. The board shall promulgate an administrative
 14 regulation in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A to establish the
 15 documentation required under this paragraph.

16 (c) Upon completion of postgraduate professional experience deemed necessary
 17 by the board, the speech-language pathologist shall make an application to the
 18 board within thirty (30) days for permanent licensure, if all requirements have
 19 been completed satisfactorily, or for renewal of the interim license at the
 20 discretion of the board. Failure to do so shall result in forfeiture of the interim
 21 license.

22 (d) An interim license shall not exceed a period of twenty-four (24) months
 23 without board approval.

24 (2) (a) A person who has a baccalaureate degree in the area of speech-language
 25 pathology or communication disorders as defined by administrative regulation
 26 shall apply for an interim license as a speech-language pathology assistant
 27 during the time that person is completing his or her professional experience as

1 established by the board by administrative regulation. The postgraduate
 2 professional experience shall be completed under the supervision of an
 3 appropriately qualified supervisor.

4 (b) ~~Upon completion of the postgraduate professional experience,~~ The speech-
 5 language pathology assistant shall make immediate application to the board
 6 within thirty (30) days for permanent licensure if all requirements have been
 7 completed satisfactorily, or for renewal of the interim license at the discretion
 8 of the board. Failure to do so shall result in forfeiture of the interim license.

9 (c) An interim license shall not exceed a period of twenty-four (24) months
 10 without board approval.

11 (3) (a) A speech-language pathologist employed solely by the public schools in a
 12 certified position who holds a teacher certification in communication
 13 disorders issued by the Education Professional Standards Board shall be
 14 exempt from holding a license issued by the board.

15 (b) A speech-language pathologist in a classified position who does not hold a
 16 teacher certification in communication disorders issued by the Education
 17 Professional Standards Board shall apply for and maintain appropriate
 18 licensure.

19 (c) The public school speech-language pathologist shall determine from the local
 20 school board how his or her position is categorized.

21 → Section 3. KRS 334A.050 is amended to read as follows:

22 To be eligible for licensure by the board as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist,
 23 the applicant must:

24 (1) Be a citizen of the United States or have declared his intention to become a citizen.
 25 A statement by the applicant under oath that he is a citizen or that he intends to
 26 apply for citizenship when he becomes eligible to make application shall be
 27 sufficient proof of compliance with this subsection;

- 1 (2) Show evidence of meeting the following professionally accepted academic and
 2 practicum standards:
- 3 (a) Master's degree in the area of speech-language pathology or audiology or
 4 substantive equivalent. The specific course work for this requirement is to be
 5 determined by the board and delineated in the administrative regulations;
- 6 (b) Completion of supervised direct clinical practicum with individuals presenting
 7 a variety of disorders of communication, the experience being obtained with
 8 the training institution or in one (1) of its cooperating programs; and
- 9 (c) For applicants seeking to practice in accordance with KRS 334A.188,
 10 completion of three (3) months of postgraduate professional experience as
 11 deemed necessary by the board; and
- 12 (3) Pass the national examinations in speech-language pathology or audiology which
 13 are approved by the American Speech and Hearing Association and in effect at the
 14 time of application for licensure. Written examinations may be supplemented by
 15 such oral examinations as the board shall determine. An applicant who fails his
 16 examination may be reexamined at a subsequent examination upon payment of
 17 another licensing fee.

18 → Section 4. KRS 334A.183 is amended to read as follows:

- 19 (1) To be eligible for initial interim licensure by the board as a speech-language
 20 pathologist, the applicant shall:
- 21 (a) Provide a certified university transcript conferring a master's degree or
 22 doctorate degree in the area of speech-language pathology or communication
 23 disorders, or substantive equivalent. The board shall promulgate
 24 administrative regulations to specify the required course work; or
- 25 (b) Provide documentation of completion of degree requirements, including a
 26 supervised direct clinical practicum with individuals presenting with a variety
 27 of disorders of communications and swallowing. The experience shall be

1 obtained with a training institution or in one (1) of its cooperating programs.

2 (2) To be eligible for initial licensure by the board as a speech-language pathologist,
3 the applicant shall:

4 (a) Provide a certified university transcript conferring a master's degree or
5 doctorate degree in the area of speech-language pathology or communication
6 disorders, or substantive equivalent. The board shall promulgate
7 administrative regulations to specify the required course work;

8 ~~(b) Provide documentation of completion of a postgraduate professional~~
9 ~~experience approved by the board pursuant to administrative regulations~~
10 ~~promulgated pursuant to this chapter; and~~

11 ~~(c) Pass a national examination approved by the board at the time of the~~
12 ~~application for licensure or provide documentation of national certification;~~

13 and

14 (c) If seeking to practice in accordance with KRS 334A.188, provide
15 documentation of completion of three (3) months of postgraduate
16 professional experience as set forth in an administrative regulation
17 promulgated by the board in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A.