

1 AN ACT relating to the practice of audiology.

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":

2 (a) Means to:

- 3 1. Evaluate, diagnose, manage, and treat auditory or vestibular
conditions in the human ear;
- 4 2. Prescribe, order, sell, dispense, or fit hearing aids to an individual for
the correction or relief of a condition for which hearing aids are
worn;
- 5 3. Prescribe, order, sell, dispense, or externally fit a sound processor to
an osseo-integrated device for the correction or relief of a condition
for which osseo-integrated devices are worn; and
- 6 4. Prescribe, order, sell, dispense, or externally fit a sound processor to a
cochlear implant for the correction or relief of a condition for which
cochlear implants are worn;

7 (b) Includes:

- 8 1. Conducting health screenings;
- 9 2. Removing a foreign body from the external auditory canal that is not
impacted to the point it requires anesthesia;
- 10 3. Removing cerumen from the external auditory canal that is not
impacted to the point it requires anesthesia;
- 11 4. Ordering cultures and bloodwork testing as it relates to the auditory or
vestibular conditions of the human ear;
- 12 5. Ordering and performing in-office, non-radiographic scanning or
imaging of the external auditory canal;
- 13 6. Ordering radiographic imaging as it relates to the auditory or
vestibular conditions in the human ear; and
- 14 7. Employing, applying, administering, and prescribing topical otologic
pharmaceutical agents; and

1 (c) Does not include:

2 1. Surgery that uses an instrument, including a laser, scalpel, needle,
3 cautery, cryoprobe, or suture, in which human tissue is cut, burned,
4 vaporized, removed, or otherwise permanently altered by mechanical
5 means, laser, ionizing radiation, ultrasound, or other means;

6 2. Osseo-integrated device surgery;

7 3. Cochlear implant surgery;

8 4. The preparation, operation, or performance of radiographic
9 imagery [the application of principles, methods, and procedures of
10 measurement, testing, appraisal, prediction, consultation, counseling,
11 and instruction related to hearing and disorders of hearing for the
12 purpose of modifying communicative disorders involving speech,
13 language, auditory behavior, or other aberrant behavior related to
14 hearing loss; planning, directing, conducting, or participating in
15 identification and hearing conservation programs; and rehabilitative and
16 rehabilitative programs, including hearing aid recommendations and
17 evaluation, prescribing, ordering the use of, selling and fitting hearing
18 instruments, including the selling and fitting of both prescription
19 hearing aids and over the counter hearing aids, auditory training, or
20 speech reading]; or

21 5. The independent diagnosis or treatment of suspected malignancies of
22 the ear, external canal, or skull base, which shall be referred to a
23 physician licensed under KRS Chapter 311;

24 (8) "Practice of speech pathology" means the application of principles, methods, and
25 procedures for the measurement, testing, audiometric screening, identification,
26 appraisal, determination of prognosis, evaluation, consultation, remediation,
27 counseling, instruction, and research related to the development and disorders of

1 speech, voice, verbal and written language, cognition/communication, or oral and
2 pharyngeal sensorimotor competencies for the purpose of designing and
3 implementing programs for the amelioration of these disorders and conditions. Any
4 representation to the public by title or by description of services, methods, or
5 procedures for the evaluation, counseling, remediation, consultation, measurement,
6 testing, audiometric screening, identification, appraisal, instruction, and research of
7 persons diagnosed with conditions or disorders affecting speech, voice, verbal, and
8 written language, cognition/communication, or oral and pharyngeal sensorimotor
9 competencies shall be considered to be the practice of speech-language pathology;

10 (9) **"Sound processor"** means a nonsurgical, external unit that attaches to an
11 **internal osseo-integrated device or cochlear implant;**

12 (10) "Speech-language pathologist" means one who practices speech-language
13 pathology. A speech-language pathologist may describe himself or herself to the
14 public by any title or description of services incorporating the words "speech-
15 language pathologist," "speech-language pathology," "speech-language therapy,"
16 "speech-language correction," "speech-language correctionist," "speech-language
17 therapist," "speech clinic," "speech clinician," "speech pathologist," "language
18 pathologist," "language pathology," "language therapist," "logopedics,"
19 "logopedist," "communicology," "communicologist," "aphasiologist," "voice
20 therapy," "voice therapist," "voice pathology," "voice pathologist," "phoniatrist,"
21 "communication disorders," or "verbal therapist";

22 (11)[(10)] "Speech-language pathology assistant" means one who assists in the practice
23 of speech-language pathology only under the supervision and direction of an
24 appropriately qualified supervisor and only within the public school system in the
25 Commonwealth. Any speech-language pathology services provided without
26 appropriate supervision or outside the public school system shall be deemed to be
27 the unlicensed practice of speech-language pathology and shall subject the

1 offending party to penalties established in KRS 334A.990;

2 (12)~~(11)~~ "Supervisor" means a person who holds a Kentucky license as a speech-

3 language pathologist or who holds Education Professional Standards Board master's

4 level certification as a teacher of exceptional children in the areas of speech and

5 communication disorders as established by administrative regulation; and

6 (13)~~(12)~~ "Temporary license" means a license that may be issued by the board

7 administrator pursuant to KRS 334A.181 to any applicant who has met all the

8 requirements for permanent licensure in accordance with that section.