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07/04

Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech Language Pathology and Audiology

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

RULE NO. & TITLE: 870-X-1-.01
Definition of Terms

INTENDED ACTION: To amend

SUBSTANCE OF PROPOSED ACTION:

To amend the rule to make changes in Definition of Terms to be consistent with changes to rule 870-X-2-.05

TIME, PLACE, MANNER OF PRESENTING VIEWS: All interested parties may present their views in writing to Wanda Rawlinson, Executive Secretary or via email at abespa@mindspring.com at any time during the thirty-five (35) day period following the publication of the notice or by appearing at the public hearing scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 19, 2013 at 400 South Union Street, 4th floor conference room.

FINAL DATE FOR COMMENT AND COMPLETION OF NOTICE: July 19, 2013

CONTACT PERSON AT AGENCY:

Wanda Rawlinson
(334)269-1434



Wanda C. Rawlinson, Executive Secretary

ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 870-X-1
THE BOARD

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870-X-1-.01 Definition of Terms

(1) **“Audiologist,”** any person that engages in the practice of audiology and who meets the qualifications set forth in Alabama Code § 34-28A-21 (1975). A person represents oneself to be an audiologist if that person holds out to the public that he/she practices audiology, by any means, or by any service or function performed, directly or indirectly, or by using the terms audiological, audiologist, audiology, audiometrics, audiometrist, aural rehabilitationist, balance center, hearing aid audiologist, hearing and balance center, hearing and balance specialist, vestibular specialist, hearing center, hearing clinic, hearing clinician, hearing conservation, hearing conservationist, hearing therapist, hearing therapy, or any variation or synonym which expresses, employs, or implies these terms or functions.

(2) **“Audiology”**

(a) The application of principles, methods, and procedures related to the development and disorders of the human auditory-vestibular system, which disorders shall include any and all conditions whether of organic or functional origin, including, but not limited to, disorders of hearing, balance, tinnitus, auditory processing and other neural functions, as those principles, methods and procedures are taught in doctoral programs in audiology in accredited programs.

(b) Such principles, methods or procedures include, without limitation, those of diagnosis, assessment, measurement, testing, appraisal, evaluation, rehabilitation, treatment, prevention, conservation, identification, consultation, counseling, intervention, management,

interpretation, instruction or research related to hearing, vestibular function, balance auditory sensitivity, acuity, function or processing, speech, language or other aberrant behavior and fall prevention, and associated neural systems, or any abnormal condition related to tinnitus, resulting from hearing loss, for the purpose of diagnosing, designing, and implementing audiological management and treatment or other programs for the amelioration of such disorders and conditions. Management and treatment shall include but not be limited to the activities described in subsection (c) below.

(c) Engaging in the practice of prescribing, selecting, specifying, evaluating, assisting in the adjustment to, and dispensing of prosthetic devices for hearing loss, including hearing aids, and hearing assistive devices by means of specialized audiometric equipment or by any other means accepted by the Board.

(3) **“Audiology Assistant,”** or any variation, synonym or coinage of the term, is defined as an individual who meets minimum qualifications established by the Board, which are less than those established by Alabama Code §34-28A-21 (1975) as necessary for licensing as an audiologist; does not act independently; and works under the direction and supervision of an audiologist licensed under Section 34-28A-21.

(4) **“Board,”** the Alabama State Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (ABESPA).

(5) **“Clinical Fellowship Year ~~(CFY)~~ (CF),”** required practical experience following successful completion of a master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology at an accredited university or equivalent as determined by the Board.

(6) **“Doctor of Audiology,”** an individual who holds a doctorate of audiology degree (Au.D.) from an accredited program, or the equivalent as determined by the Board.

(7) **“Fourth-Year Internship,”** required practical experience following successful completion of educational requirements for the doctorate of audiology degree (Au.D.) at an accredited university or equivalent as determined by the Board.

(8) **“Good Moral Character,”** A person shall be deemed to be of good moral character provided that said individual has not pleaded guilty to or been convicted of any felony, any violation of corruption of a minor, any offense of violence, theft offense, or drug abuse offense that is not a minor misdemeanor, or any substantively comparable ordinance of a municipal corporation or of another state.

(9) **“Gross Negligence,”** A Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist commits gross negligence, when his/her actions reveal a disregard for the services needed for proper treatment of the patient. This shall include, but is not limited to, the failure to properly diagnose the patient’s condition and failure to properly administer and interpret administered tests based upon current and established procedures of the profession. Evidence of gross negligence can be direct or circumstantial.

(10) **“License,”** any license issued by the Board to practice audiology or speech-language pathology.

(11) **“Licensee,”** a person holding a license to practice audiology or speech language pathology issued pursuant to this chapter, but not including the participants of ~~CFY~~ CF or Fourth-Year Internship.

(12) **“Person,”** any individual, group, association, limited or general partnership, corporation, or any other business entity.

(13) **“Preceptor,”** any person who is licensed and has the responsibility of supervising or overseeing the training or activities of assistants, students, externs, participants of ~~CFY~~ CF or Fourth-Year Internship and others providing audiological or speech language pathology services without full licenses.

(14) **“Speech-Language Pathologist,”** any person who engages in the practice of speech-language pathology and who meets the qualifications set forth in Alabama Code §34-28A-21 (1975). A person represents oneself to be a speech-language pathologist when he/she holds oneself out to the public by any means, or by any service or function performed, directly or indirectly, or by using the terms “speech pathology,” “speech pathologist,” “speech therapy,” “speech therapist,” “speech teacher,” “speech correction,” “speech correctionist,” “speech clinic,” “speech clinician,” “language therapy,” “language therapist,” “language pathology,” “language pathologist,” “logopedics,” “logopedist,” “communicology,” “communicologist,” “aphasiology,” “aphasiologist,” “phoniatriest,” or any variation, synonym, coinage or other word that expresses, employs or implies these terms, names or functions.

(15) **“Speech-Language Pathology,”** the application of principles, methods and procedures related to the development, disorders and effectiveness of human communication and related functions including but not limited to providing prevention, screening, consultation, assessment and diagnosis, treatment, intervention, management, counseling and follow-up services for disorders of speech (i.e. articulation, fluency, resonance and voice), language (i.e., phonology, morphology, syntax, pre-literacy and language-based literacy skills), swallowing or other upper aerodigestive functions; and cognitive aspects of communication (i.e. attention, memory, problem solving). The practice of speech-language pathology also includes establishing augmentative and alternative communication techniques and strategies; including developing, selecting and prescribing of such systems and devices (e.g., speech generating devices); providing services to individuals with hearing loss and their families (e.g., auditory training, speech-reading, speech and language intervention secondary to hearing loss); screening hearing of individuals who can participate in conventional pure-tone air conduction methods and screening middle ear pathology through screening tympanometry for the purpose of referral for further evaluation; using instrumentation (e.g., videofluoroscopy) to observe, collect data and measure parameters of communication and swallowing; selecting, fitting and establishing effective use of prosthetic/adaptive devices for communication, swallowing or other upper aerodigestive functions (does not include sensory devices used by individuals with hearing loss); and providing services to modify or enhance communication performance.

(16) **“Speech-Language Pathology Assistant,”** or any variation, synonym or coinage of the term is defined as an individual who meets minimum qualifications established by the Board, which are less than those established by Alabama Code §34-28A-21 (1975) as necessary for licensing as a speech-language pathologist; does not act independently; and works under the direction and supervision of a speech-language pathologist licensed under Section 34-28A-21.

Authors: Ada Holyfield, Dr. Barbara Cady, Amanda Blaszczyński and Florence Cuneo
Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama. 1975, §§34-28A-1, et seq.
History: Filed July 20, 2006. Filed April 19, 2010.

870-X-1-.02 Membership, Qualifications, And Term Of Appointment.

(1) There are seven members of the Board. The overall membership of the Board shall consist of not more than one member from any U.S. Congressional District at the same time. Members are appointed by the Governor from names submitted by the Speech and Hearing Association of Alabama, which shall recommend not less than three persons to fill each vacancy. These recommendations shall consist of at least two persons from each of those Districts not already represented on the Board.

(2) One member shall be a member of the consuming public or an allied professional. Three members shall be licensed speech-language pathologists and three shall be licensed audiologists. The six members who are speech-language pathologists or audiologists shall have been engaged in rendering services to the public and/or teaching and/or research in speech language pathology or audiology for at least five years immediately preceding their appointment, and shall be citizens of this state. The six professional speech-language pathologist and audiologist Board members shall at all times be holders of active and valid licenses for the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology in the State of Alabama.

(3) Appointments shall be for a term of three years, with no member eligible to serve more than two full consecutive terms. Terms shall begin on October 1. In the event appointments are not made to fill the expired terms and/or vacancies on the Board, those members of the Board may continue to serve on the Board until new appointments are made.

Authors: Eugene C. Sheeley, Denise P. Gibbs, Loie P. Sears, Gina Murray and Keith Nicholls
Statutory Authority: Code of Alabama. 1975, §§34-28A-1, et seq.
History: Filed September 20, 1982. Amended: Filed February 28, 1985; January 14, 1994.
Amended: Filed February 11, 1994; effective March 18, 1994; filed June 20, 1997. April 15, 2010.