



## STATE OF WISCONSIN

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**Governor Scott Walker      Secretary Dave Ross**

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### **Positions Statements Related to Speech Language Pathology Issued by the Hearing and Speech Examining Board**

Licenseses must meet a new CE requirement prior to their next license renewal in January 2013. The overall number of required CE hours has **not** changed. The new requirement simply states that two (2) of the 20 hours of CE must be in Ethics. The remaining CE hours may be obtained from any other course approved by the Hearing and Speech Examining Board.

A list of Board approved CE courses for the current biennium which runs from 2/1/2011 through 1/31/2013 can be found on the web at [www.dsps.wi.gov](http://www.dsps.wi.gov)

#### **WHAT IS THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF WISCONSIN LAW THAT GOVERNS THE REGULATION OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS WHO WORK IN SCHOOL SETTING?**

Speech and language pathologists who work primarily in school settings are licensed by the Department of Public Instruction. Refer to Chapters [115](#) and [118](#), Wis. Stats. and [Chapter PI 34](#), Wis. Adm. Code.

#### **WHAT CONSTITUTES THE PRACTICE OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY?**

As defined by [Wis Stat. 459.20 \(5\)](#), the practice of speech-language pathology means applying principles, methods or procedures of prevention, identification, evaluation, consultation, intervention, instruction or research related to speech, language, cognition or swallowing or any abnormal condition involving speech, articulation, fluency, voice, verbal or written language, auditory comprehension, cognition or communication or oral, pharyngeal or laryngeal sensorimotor competencies.

#### **HOW LONG ARE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN RECORDS OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RENDERED AND PRODUCTS DISPENSED?**

Speech-language pathologists are required to maintain records of professional services rendered and products dispensed for a period of 5 years. Refer to s. [HAS 6.18 \(2\) \(n\)](#), Wis. Adm. Code.

**ARE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN A MEMBERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN SPEECH-LANGUAGE HEARING ASSOCIATION (ASHA) IN ORDER TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN A LICENSE TO PRACTICE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY IN WISCONSIN?**

No.

**IS TREATING A CLIENT SOLELY BY CORRESPONDENCE GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE?**

Yes, this is considered unprofessional conduct. See [Ch HAS 6.18 \(2\)\(m\)](#), Wisc Admin Code.

**WHAT ARE SOME OTHER GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE?**

Grounds for discipline are stipulated in [Ch HAS 6.18](#), Wisc Admin Code and [Wis Stat. 459.34](#).

**DOES THE EXAMINING BOARD HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ASSESS FORFEITURE IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS?**

Yes. In addition to or in lieu of a reprimand or denial, limitation, suspension or revocation of a license or permit, the examining board may assess against an applicant, licensee or permittee a forfeiture of not less than \$100 nor more than \$2,500 for each violation enumerated under [s. 459.34 \(3\)](#), Wis. Stats.

**DOES A SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST (SLP) WORKING IN A SCHOOL IN WISCONSIN HAVE TO BE LICENSED IN THE SAME MANNER AS AN SLP WORKING IN A CLINICAL/REHAB SETTING?**

Usually not. If a speech-language pathologist works only in the public school setting (and there is no billing for their service), they would only need a DPI license. If they see students in the school, and the school bills Medicaid for those services, then the clinician also needs a DRL license. If the clinician does any service outside the public school, e.g., sees clients privately for work over the summer, they again need the DRL license. See [Wis Stat. 459.2 \(f\)](#).

**ARE SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS PERMITTED TO PERFORM NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING USING AUDITORY BRAINSTEM EVOKED RESPONSE PROCEDURES?**

Speech-language pathologists licensed in the State of Wisconsin who have the appropriate training may perform newborn hearing screening using auditory brainstem evoked response in collaboration with an audiologist. Judgments and descriptive statements about the results of such screening should be limited to a determination as to whether the individual has passed. Individuals who do not pass the screening shall be referred for evaluation and management.

**HEARING AIDS PURCHASED THROUGH MAIL ORDER OR ON THE INTERNET APPEAR TO BE LESS EXPENSIVE THAN THOSE AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL**

**AUDIOLOGISTS OR HEARING INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS. IS IT ADVISABLE TO PURCHASE HEARING AIDS THROUGH MAIL ORDER OR ON THE INTERNET?**

It is highly recommended that you purchase hearing aids in person rather than through mail order or on the internet. It is critical that you first have your hearing evaluated by a licensed hearing health care professional - either an audiologist or hearing instrument specialist – to determine your hearing health care needs. If it is determined that your hearing loss is due to an underlying medical condition, you will be referred to a physician for medical evaluation and treatment. If it is determined that your hearing loss can be treated with hearing aids, the hearing health care professional will select and fit you with the most appropriate hearing aids for your hearing loss, and then provide you with essential follow-up services. A professional relationship between you and a licensed hearing health care professional is important to insure successful use of, and satisfaction with, hearing aids. For more information about hearing aids, visit the consumer web sites of the American Academy of Audiology (<http://www.howsyourhearing.org/>) and the International Hearing Society ([http://ihsinfo.org/lhsV2/Hearing\\_Health\\_Info/Index.cfm](http://ihsinfo.org/lhsV2/Hearing_Health_Info/Index.cfm)).