

CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES
CHAPTER 399
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS

Section 20-408. Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "The practice of speech and language pathology" means the application of principles, methods and procedures for the measurement, testing, diagnosis, prediction, counseling or instruction relating to the development and disorders of speech, voice or language or feeding and swallowing or other upper aerodigestive functions for the purpose of diagnosing, preventing, treating, ameliorating or modifying such disorders and conditions in individuals or groups of individuals.

(2) "Licensed speech and language pathologist" means a person licensed under this chapter to practice speech and language pathology.

(3) "The practice of audiology" means the application of principles, methods and procedures of measurement, testing, appraisal, prediction, consultation, counseling and the determination and use of appropriate amplification related to hearing and disorders of hearing, including the fitting or selling of hearing aids, for the purpose of modifying communicative disorders involving speech, language, auditory function or other aberrant behavior related to hearing loss.

(4) "Licensed audiologist" means a person licensed under this chapter to practice audiology.

(5) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of public health.

(6) "Department" means the department of public health.

Section 20-410. License required. No person shall engage in or offer to engage in the practice of speech and language pathology or audiology or represent himself as a speech and language pathologist or audiologist in this state unless he is licensed or exempted under the provisions of this chapter.

Section 20-411. Qualifications for license. Waiver of written examination. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) no person shall be licensed under this chapter until such person has successfully passed a written examination, the subject and scope of which shall be determined by the commissioner. Application for such examination shall be on forms prescribed and furnished by the department and accompanied by satisfactory proof that the applicant: (1) Is of good professional character; (2) possesses a master's or doctorate degree in speech and language pathology or audiology from a program accredited, at the time of the applicants graduation, by the educational standards board of the American Speech Language-Hearing Association or such successor organization as may be approved by the department, or has completed an integrated educational program which, at the time of the applicant's completion, satisfied the educational requirements of said organization for the award of a certificate of clinical competence; (3) has had a minimum of thirty-six weeks and one thousand eighty hours of full-time or a minimum of forty-eight weeks and one thousand four hundred forty hours of part-time professional employment in speech and language pathology or audiology under the supervision of a licensed or certified speech and language pathologist or audiologist. Such employment shall follow the completion of the educational requirements of subdivision (2). "Full-time employment" means a minimum of thirty hours a week and "part-time employment" means a minimum of fifteen hours a week. The postgraduate supervised employment requirements of subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be waived for persons who meet the January 1, 2007, Standards for the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, or its successor organization.

(b) The commissioner may waive the written examination for any person who (1) is licensed as a speech and language pathologist or audiologist in another state and such state has licensing requirements at least equivalent to the requirements in this state; or (2) holds a certificate from a national professional organization, approved by the commissioner, in speech and language pathology or audiology.

Section 20-412. Fees. License renewal. The fee for an initial license as provided for in section 20-411, as amended, as a speech and language pathologist or audiologist shall be one hundred dollars and for a combined license as a speech and language pathologist and audiologist shall be one hundred eighty dollars. Licenses shall

expire in accordance with section 19a-88, and shall become invalid unless renewed. Renewal may be effected upon payment of a fee of one hundred dollars and in accordance with section 19a-88.

Section 20-413. Exemptions. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as prohibiting:

- (1) Consulting with or disseminating research findings and scientific information to accredited academic institutions or governmental agencies or offering lectures to the public for a fee, monetary or otherwise;
- (2) The activities and services of a graduate student or speech and language pathology intern in speech and language pathology pursuing a course of study leading to a graduate degree in speech and language pathology at an accredited or approved college or university or a clinical training facility approved by the department, provided these activities and services constitute a part of his supervised course of study and that such person is designated as "Speech and Language Pathology Intern", "Speech and Language Pathology Trainee", or other such title clearly indicating the training status appropriate to his level of training;
- (3) The activities and services of a graduate student or audiology intern in audiology at an accredited or approved college or university or a clinical training facility approved by the department, provided these activities and services constitute a part of his supervised course of study and that such person is designated as "Audiology Intern", "Audiology Trainee", or other such title clearly indicating the training status appropriate to his level of training;
- (4) (A) A person from another state offering speech and language pathology or audiology services in this state, provided such services are performed for no more than five days in any calendar year and provided such person meets the qualifications and requirements for licensing in this state; or (B) a person from another state who is licensed or certified as a speech and language pathologist or audiologist by a similar authority of another state, or territory of the United States, or of a foreign country or province whose standards are equivalent to or higher than, at the date of his certification or licensure, the requirements of this chapter and regulations adopted hereunder, or a person who meets such qualifications and requirements and resides in a state or territory of the United States, or a foreign country or province which does not grant certification or license to speech and language pathologists or audiologists, from offering speech and language pathology or audiology services in this state for a total of not more than thirty days in any calendar year;
- (5) The activities and services of a person who meets the requirements of subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of section 20-411, as amended, while such person is engaged in full or part-time employment in fulfillment of the professional employment requirement of subdivision (3) of said subsection (a);
- (6) Nurses and other personnel from engaging in screening and audiometric testing, under the supervision of a licensed physician, surgeon or audiologist, for the purpose of identifying those persons whose sensitivity of hearing is below the standard acceptable level;
- (7) The activity and services of hearing aid dealers;
- (8) The use of supervised support personnel to assist licensed speech and language pathologists with tasks that are (A) designed by the licensed speech and language pathologists being assisted, (B) routine, and (C) related to maintenance of assistive and prosthetic devices, recording and charting or implementation of evaluation or intervention plans. For purposes of this subdivision, "supervised" means (i) not more than three support personnel are assisting one licensed speech and language pathologist, (ii) in-person communication between the licensed speech and language pathologist and support personnel is available at all times, and (iii) the licensed speech and language pathologist provides the support personnel with regularly scheduled direct observation, guidance, direction and conferencing for not less than thirty per cent of client contact time for the support personnel's first ninety workdays and for not less than twenty per cent of client contact time thereafter.

Section 20-414. Disciplinary action; grounds. (a) The commissioner may refuse to issue a license or may suspend or revoke the license of any licensee or take any of the actions set forth in section 19a-17 in circumstances which have endangered or are likely to endanger the health, welfare, or safety of the public. Such circumstances include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Obtaining a license by means of fraud or material misrepresentation or engaging in fraud or material deception in the course of professional services or activities;

- (2) Violation of professional conduct guidelines or code of ethics as established by regulations adopted by the department;
- (3) Violation of any provision of this chapter or regulations hereunder or section 20-404;
- (4) Physical or mental illness or emotional disorder or loss of motor skill, including but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process;
- (5) Abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals;
- (6) Illegal, incompetent or negligent conduct in his practice.

(b) The commissioner may order a license holder to submit to a reasonable physical or mental examination if his physical or mental capacity to practice safely is the subject of an investigation. Said commissioner may petition the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford-New Britain to enforce such order or any action taken pursuant to section 19a-17.

Section 20-416. Administrative proceedings. Appeals. Regulations. (a) Proceedings under this chapter and any appeals from the decisions or orders of the commissioner shall be in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 and the regulations adopted by the commissioner of public health.

(b) The department shall adopt regulations in accordance with chapter 54 for the administration of this chapter and for the conduct of the practice of speech and language pathology and audiology.

Section 20-417. Penalty. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter or the regulations adopted hereunder shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than five years, or be both fined and imprisoned. For purposes of this section, each instance of patient contact or consultation which is in violation of any provision of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense. Failure to renew a license in a timely manner shall not constitute a violation for the purposes of this section.