

Newsflash: Supervising a Clinical Fellow? An SLPA? An EA? What You Need to Know Now!

Some quick reminders during “hiring season” and before heading into the fall....

It is essential that anyone *practicing as, or purporting to be,* an SLP or an SLPA holds a valid Oregon license BEFORE they start work. The Board has recently reviewed a few cases where school districts or other employers hired individuals who started work without first obtaining appropriate licensure. Don’t assume that the human resources department understands SLP and SLPA licensure requirements! As a licensed SLP yourself, you are held to the Board’s professional and ethical standards. One definition of unprofessional conduct is in OAR 335-005-0010(2)(g):

(g) Assisting or permitting any person to practice speech-language pathology or audiology without a license.

So the Board can hold *you* responsible for unlicensed practice on the part of your supervisee(s). Please ask to see their license, or check our licensee directory at <https://hrlb.oregon.gov/bspa/licenseelookup/>. This list is refreshed every hour by our IT system.

Clinical fellows must hold a conditional SLP license issued by the Board of Examiners* and be supervised by a qualified SLP supervisor throughout their post-graduate supervised experience and until they receive their full license. CFs may not start work (even if it is “orientation” or other non-patient contact) until they have obtained their license. The Board generally follows ASHA’s guidance regarding the role of the supervisor. CFs must be supervised in whatever setting they work—if they have two part-time jobs, supervision must be provided for each setting. Remember that after they complete their required 1,260 hours, CFs must still be supervised and not practice independently until their conditional license is upgraded to a regular SLP license. CFs must report any supervisory changes to the Board within 30 days of the change. See Conditional License rules at http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_300/oar_335/335_080.html.

SLPAs must also hold their Board license before they can begin work as an SLPA, even for “orientation” or other non-patient contact. The only exception to the licensing rule is for students completing a practicum through an approved academic program (in Oregon, only Chemeketa Community College). To qualify as a supervising SLP, you must have a Board SLP license plus two years of professional experience (CF + one year). TSPC-licensed SLPs may also supervise under specific circumstances—see OAR 335-095-0040—and as long as they follow Board rules for supervision. SLPAs must report any supervision changes to the Board within 30 days of the change.

It is imperative that SLPs who are supervising licensed SLPAs or SLPA practicum students understand and follow the rules regarding direct and indirect supervision and clinical interaction hours, and how to document them. Refer to OAR 335-095-0010 for definitions, and OAR 335-095-0030 and -0050 for SLPA documentation guidance. Also, as an SLP using support staff, make sure that you do not have an **Educational Assistant** performing duties included in the SLPA scope of practice in OAR 335-095-0060. If

you do, you may be assisting unlicensed practice. See SLPA rules at:
http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/rules/oars_300/oar_335/335_095.html .

As always, please call the Board office with any questions about licensing requirements or Oregon Administrative Rules. Or email us at speechaud.board@state.or.us.

In the meantime, enjoy the sunshine!

Sandy Leybold, MPH
Executive Director

* As an alternative, if the CF is practicing *solely* in a public school, ESD, or charter school, they may hold a license with an endorsement in communications disorders or speech impaired as issued by the Oregon Teachers Standards & Practices Commission (TSPC).