

## DEFINITIONS

XX-XXXX. **Definitions.** As used in this act, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning respectively ascribed to them in this section:

- (a) Speech-language pathology and audiology board as defined in Article 65-6502.
- (b) “Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)” means an individual who meets minimum qualifications established by the secretary which are less than those established by this act 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 this act.
- (c) “Certified Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (C-SLPA)” means an individual who, following academic and on-the-job training, completed the application and national organization certification requirements (i.e., American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), performs tasks as prescribed, directed, and supervised by a speech-language pathologist who meets the qualifications of a ‘supervising speech-language pathologist’ as defined below.
- (d) “Supervising Speech-Language Pathologist” means a speech-language pathologist who holds a current Kansas license or a privilege to practice in the state of Kansas **and** has two (2) years of full-time professional experience as a speech-language pathologist, following successful completion of the clinical fellowship experience.
- (e) “Direct Supervision” means on-site, in-view observation and guidance by a speech-language pathologist while an assigned clinical activity is performed by a speech language pathology assistant. This can include the supervising speech-language pathologist viewing and communicating with the speech-language pathology assistant via telecommunication technology as the speech-language pathology assistant provides clinical services. Direct supervision does not include reviewing an audio or video recorded session after it has occurred.
- (f) “Indirect Supervision” means those activities other than direct observation and guidance conducted by a speech-language pathologist that may include demonstration, record review, review and evaluation of audio or videotaped sessions, and/or interactive television.
- (g) “Telepractice” means the delivery of services using telecommunication and Internet technology to remotely connect SLPAs to clients, for intervention purposes.
- (h) “Speech Para”: A speech para is a person **without** the qualifications necessary to be considered an SLPA. This person may assist with activity preparation, transporting client/patient from class to the speech therapy room, assisting with teletherapy

technology issues and providing direct services according to a plan developed by a licensed speech-language pathologist.

## **1. Standards:**

### **a. Licensure Provisions (Degree/Education).** To be licensed as a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant, an applicant must:

- i. submit an application on forms approved by the board;
- ii. submit an application fee as prescribed by the board;
- iii. present evidence of a bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders (CSD) from a regionally accredited institution; OR a bachelor's degree in another field AND 24 hours of core coursework in CSD; OR completion of an SLPA program from a regionally accredited institution (e.g., an associate's degree, a technical training program, a certificate program).
- iv. present evidence of a supervised clinical experience that consists of 100 clock hours of supervised clinical fieldwork with direct client/patient contact or clinical practicum that meets the following requirement:
  1. Hours may be completed via an academic practicum and/or on the job under a supervising speech-language pathologist.

## **2. Supervision**

### **a. Requirements for a Supervising Speech-Language Pathologist:**

- i. Must be a speech-language pathologist who holds a current Kansas license or a privilege to practice in the state of Kansas and has two (2) years of full-time professional experience as a speech-language pathologist, following successful completion of the clinical fellowship experience.
- ii. Must earn at least one hour of professional development in the area of ethics every three years.
- iii. Must have earned at least two hours of professional development following licensure (one-time requirement) in the area of supervision and/or clinical instruction.
- iv. Must institute a training program for each SLPA that encompasses all of the procedures to be performed. Documentation of such training in formal substance acceptable to the licensing board shall be retained in the SLPA's file.

- v. Must inform the client/patient about the use of an SLPA.
- vi. Must provide and document appropriate supervision of the SLPA to the Board as outlined in the licensing board regulations;
- vii. Must assume the legal and ethical responsibilities of the SLPA's day-to-day conduct;
- viii. Must maintain original documents for three (3) years;
- ix. May not supervise more than two (2) full-time or three (3) part-time SLPAs. The combined hours worked by three part-time SLPAs must not exceed the total hours worked by two full-time SLPAs.
- x. Must not have either of the following:
  - 1. pending and/or previous disciplinary actions or allegations by the state licensure board;
  - 2. provisional speech-language pathology license only.

**b. Supervision Requirements for a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant**

- i. The amount and type of supervision required must be consistent with:
  - 1. the SLPA's skills and experience;
  - 2. the needs of the students, patients, and clients;
  - 3. the service setting;
  - 4. the tasks assigned; and
  - 5. the laws and regulations that govern SLPAs
- ii. Minimum ongoing supervision must include:
  - 1. Documentation of direct supervision provided by the SLP for each student, patient, or client at least every 30–60 days (depending on frequency of visits/sessions and setting);
  - 2. Direct supervision of at least 10 percent of the SLPA's total client contact time. (Direct supervision can be performed remotely via video conferencing.)
  - 3. Supervising SLP's discretion of the amount of supervision necessary depending on SLPA's demonstration of competencies in

treating patients/clients who have a variety of communication disorders.

4. If for any reason there is a change in the supervising speech-language pathologist, it is the responsibility of the SLPA to notify the licensing board of their new supervisor within (7) business days.

### **3. Maintenance of License**

- a. As a condition of an assistant license renewal, a speech-language pathology assistant shall satisfactorily complete twelve hours of approved continuing education or 1.2 continuing education units (CEUs) during each two-year license period.
- b. Continuing education must be reported on forms and in the time and manner specified by the licensing board.
- c. A licensee shall maintain records of continuing education hours or CEUs earned for a period of four years, and these records must be made available to the licensing board.
- d. Payment of license renewal fee to the licensing board by designated deadline.

### **4. Scope of Practice.** The supervising speech-language pathologist accepts full and complete responsibility for all services and tasks performed or omitted by the speech-language pathology assistant. Provided that education, training, supervision and documentation are consistent with that defined in this document, the following tasks may be designated and directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist to the speech-language pathology assistant:

- a. Conduct speech-language or hearing screenings (without interpretation) following specified screening protocols developed by the supervising speech-language pathologist.
- b. Provide direct treatment to patients/clients identified by the supervising speech-language pathologist.
- c. Follow documented treatment plans or protocols developed by the supervising speech-language pathologist.
- d. Document patient/client progress toward meeting established objectives as stated in the treatment plan, assist with data collection for patient/client responses, and prepare therapy materials and activities.
- e. Assist the supervising speech-language pathologist during assessment of

patients/clients.

- f. Prepare charts, records, and graphs and assist with other clerical tasks as directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist.
- g. Perform checks and maintenance of equipment on a regular basis, and verify calibration at least annually on audiometric equipment.
- h. Assist the supervising speech-language pathologist in research projects, in-service training, and public relations programs.
- i. Share documentation/treatment notes with supervising SLP to be reviewed and co-signed.
- j. Provide caregiver coaching (e.g., modeling and teaching communication strategies) for carryover of skills as directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist.
- k. Provide teletherapy services as directed by the supervising speech-language pathologist.
- l. Collaborate with team members when following HIPAA and FERPA guidelines under the guidance of the supervising speech-language pathologist.
- m. Clearly identify oneself as a speech-language pathology assistant to students, clients, families, and others.

**5. Prohibited Activities.** The speech-language pathology assistant must not:

- a. Perform diagnostic tests of any kind, including formal or informal evaluations, nor interpret test results.
- b. Act as a decision-maker in the following situations: individualized education program meetings, special education eligibility meetings, or any interdisciplinary team meetings where diagnostic information is interpreted or treatment plans are developed without the presence of the supervising speech-language pathologist or designated speech-language pathologist who meets the qualifications for a supervising SLP.
- c. Independently provide diagnostic/assessment results to patients/clients or their parents/guardians.
- d. Write, develop, or modify a patient's/client's treatment plan.
- e. Provide services outside of a documented treatment plan that has been prepared by the supervising speech-language pathologist.
- f. Provide services for which he/she has not received appropriate/adequate

training.

- g. Sign any formal documents (e.g., treatment plans, reimbursement forms or reports) without the signature of the supervising speech-language pathologist.
- h. Identify or recommend patients/clients for services.
- i. Discharge patients/clients from services.
- j. Make referrals for additional services without consultation with the supervising SLP.
- k. Provide any interpretative information that is contained in reports written by any licensed speech-language pathologist.
- l. Represent oneself to be a speech-language pathologist.
- m. Make advertisement or public announcement of services independent of the supervising speech-language pathologist.
- n. Assist in feeding or swallowing therapy without direct supervision from the supervising speech-language pathologist.
- o. Treat a person who is medically fragile as determined by the supervising SLP.