



South Carolina

Speech/Audiology News

LLR An online newsletter published by the South Carolina Board of Speech/Audiology.

Updates from the Board Office



Effective March 1, 2010, state boards are required under Section 1921 of the Social Security Act to report all adverse or negative actions taken against any health care practitioner or health care entity. The new federal law

now requires that these actions be reported to both the National Practitioners Data Bank (NPDB) and the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIP-DB).

The Board can no longer exclude actions taken against an individual based on professional competency or conduct. This information is used to promote

quality in health care and assist in making sound decisions when hiring, credentialing and licensing individuals. It is especially important for public protection. The information is not available to the public.

The South Carolina Board of Speech/Audiology consists of five members: two licensed speech-language pathologists, two audiologists and one consumer member. The Board meets four times yearly, and the meetings are open to the public, with the exception of executive sessions. Executive sessions, when necessary, are held to discuss confidential matters where legal advice is given to the Board in matters pertaining complaints, disciplinary issues or application hearings.

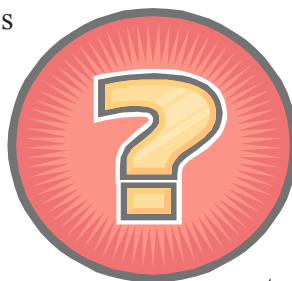
Minutes from Board meetings can be found on the Board's Web site at www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/speech.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. How long does the licensing process take?

A. It could take several days up to weeks to receive a license.

The process is contingent upon the applicant requesting and having forwarded to the Board all required documents. Once all documents are received, the Board can issue a license. However, if there are issues that require Board review, applicants will be scheduled to make an appearance before the full Board at its scheduled Board meeting. Applications that require additional documents, such as criminal history, background information and court documents may take longer.



Q. Can I begin working after I submit an application to become licensed in South Carolina and hold a license in another state?

A. No. You are required by law to be licensed in South Carolina to practice speech-language pathology or audiology.

Q. Will the Board issue a temporary license to practice while my application is pending?

A. No. The Board does not issue temporary licenses.

Q. Should an individual, who is certified by the Department of Education to work in the public school system, be licensed by the Board?

A. If an individual is certified by the Department of Education to work in the public school system, the

[continued on page 2](#)

Just a reminder!



All licenses will expire on March 31, 2011. It is illegal to practice speech-language pathology or audiology with an expired license. Official notifications to renew licenses will be mailed in January 2011. Licensees, at the time of renewal, must have the required 16 hours of continuing education. During the renewal period, you will be

asked a series of questions to include whether you have been arrested, convicted or received a Board sanction since your last renewal. It is important that you respond to each question.

If you have an address change, please notify the Board or go [online](#) to update your address.

RENEWING THE LICENSE ONLINE IS THE FASTEST WAY.

All Employers Must Comply with S.C. Immigration Act by July 1, 2010



The “South Carolina Illegal Immigration Reform Act” that was signed into law by Governor Mark Sanford on June 4, 2008 will soon be applicable to all businesses in South Carolina regardless of the number of employees.

Compliance with this law began July 1, 2009, for private employers who employ 100 or more employees. For private employers who employ less than 100 employees, the compliance date is July 1, 2010.

The law requires all employers to verify the legal status of new employees and prohibits employment of any worker who is not legally in this country and authorized to work. The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation’s Office of Immigrant Worker Compliance is charged with investigating complaints and conducting random audits of private employers to assure compliance. Failure to

comply can result in severe monetary penalties and revocation of an employer’s right to operate their business.

During the first year, LLR investigators found that most large employers (more than 100 workers) were in compliance with the law. When violations were found they generally were because

employers who were using E-Verify to verify their employees, did not do so within the five-day time-frame required by the law.

employers who were using driver’s licenses to verify employees, did so using a driver’s license from a state not on the approved list.

For more information on the law, visit www.llr.state.sc.us/immigration/.

Frequently Asked Questions: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

individual is exempt from Board licensure. However, if the individual’s relationship with the state school system is as a private contractor, or the individual sees clients as a private practitioner, the individual is required to be licensed. The same holds true for any of the other exempt categories.

Q. What is the process to have verification of my South Carolina License sent to another state?

A. Verification of your South Carolina license may be sent to another state by requesting it online at the Board’s web page (www.llr.state.sc.us/pol/speech). The fee for this service is \$20 and can be paid by credit card or e-check. Your request should be processed within 48 hours.

Q. Can the Board recommend or get involved with how to bill for speech or audiology services?

A. No. The Board does not regulate the rules or policies of insurance companies. Billing policies are set by contract with insurance companies. Therefore, questions related to billing and reimbursement for a specific patient should be directed to the insurance company for clarification. The Board does accept complaints concerning fraudulent billing, which generally involves charging fees for services not performed or for services that are inappropriate to the diagnosis. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists are responsible for patient care management which includes proper and accurate billing of services provided.

Q. If the school issues a sealed transcript to me, can I send it with my application to speed up the process?

A. No. Statutes and regulation require the transcript be sent directly from the school.

2010 BOARD MEETING DATES

- January 21, 2010
- April 15, 2010
- July 15, 2010
- October 21, 2010

All meetings start at 10 a.m. and are held at 110 Centerview Drive, Kingstree Building in Columbia.