

SC Board of Examiners in SLP/Aud Telepractice FAQs

Q. What is telepractice?

A. American Speech-Language -Hearing Association ("ASHA") defines telepractice as the application of telecommunications technology to the delivery of speech language pathology and audiology professional services at a distance by linking practitioner to client or practitioner to practitioner for assessment, intervention, and/or consultation.

Q. In what settings is telepractice used?

A. According to ASHA, telepractice venues can include schools, medical centers, rehabilitation hospitals, community health centers, outpatient clinics, universities, clients' homes, residential health care facilities, child care centers, and corporate settings. Before offering telepractice services, the practitioner should ensure that the proposed method and setting comply with national, state, institutional, and professional regulations and policies. See *ASHA State-by-State* for state requirements at the following link: <https://www.asha.org/Advocacy/state/default/>

Q. Is telepractice practice allowed in SC?

A. Yes, see the Board's policy at the following link:
<https://www.llr.sc.gov/POL/Speech/index.asp?file=laws.htm>

Q. Where does the initial evaluation need to be completed?

A. Before engaging in telepractice, a client must first be evaluated in person by a South Carolina licensed practitioner.

Q. Does the Board control billing and reimbursement for telepractice?

A. No, the Board does not control billing or reimbursement for any services provided to clients. However, it suggested that billing and third party reimbursement are factors that should be evaluated by the practitioner before engaging in telepractice.

Q. Can a practitioner licensed in another state provide services to a client in located in South Carolina?

- A. No. Services provided to clients in South Carolina that require a license must be provided by a practitioner licensed in South Carolina.
- Q. If a practitioner is licensed in South Carolina, can they provide telepractice services to a client in another state?
- A. Licensed practitioners must check the state licensing requirements for the state where the client is located.
- Q. What are the ethical issues concerning telepractice?
- A. ASHA recommends that practitioners who provide telepractice services comply with the ASHA *Code of Ethics* (ASHA, 2016a). The specific principles identified by ASHA as affecting telepractice can be found at the following link:
https://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589934956§ion=Key_Issues#Ethical_Considerations
- Q. Is a practitioner licensed in another state who provides telepractice services in a South Carolina school setting required to have a South Carolina license?
- A. A practitioner working for a telepractice company that has contracted with a South Carolina school to provide services is required to have a South Carolina license. A practitioner that is *not* an *employee* of a state or federal agency or a South Carolina political subdivision is *not* exempt from licensing requirements. See S.C. Code Ann. § 40-67-300 at the following link:
<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t40c067.php>
- Q. What factors should be considered when determining if telepractice is appropriate for a particular client?
- A. Please see the telepractice candidacy factors identified by ASHA at the following link:
https://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589934956§ion=Key_Issues#Client_Selection
- Q. What are the technological requirements to engage in telepractice?
- A. Please see ASHA's recommendations on the use of technology at the following link:
https://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589934956§ion=Key_Issues#Telepractice_Technology

Q. How can I store and transmit client information during telepractice?

A. Please see ASHA's recommendations for privacy and security of client information at the following link:
https://www.asha.org/PRPSpecificTopic.aspx?folderid=8589934956§ion=Key_Issues#Privacy_and_Security