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AUDIOLOGY AND HEARING AID PROVIDER LICENSURE

SUPERVISION OF UNLICENSED PERSONNEL

Neither the Audiology and Hearing Aid Providers Practice Act nor the State of Colorado regulates audiology or hearing-aid provider assistants. An audiologist may supervise an audiology student enrolled in course study at an accredited institution and practicing audiology under the supervision of a licensed audiologist if required by the course. An audiologist or a hearing aid provider may supervise a hearing-aid trainee or a hearing-aid associate during their licensed training period. Please review the statutes and rules and adhere to the current laws.

NICKNAMES

Audiology and Hearing Aid Provider Licensure requires applicants be licensed in their legal name. When you use a nickname in your practice, your clients may be misinformed into thinking that you are unlicensed because they are unable to find your license in the [Automated Licensure Information System Online \(ALISON\)](#) under your nickname.

PERSON IN TRAINING

A licensed audiologist or hearing aid provider is responsible for all services provided by a hearing aid **trainee or associate** under their supervision. Supervision of training cannot begin prior to the issuance of a hearing aid trainee or associate license.

A hearing aid **trainee** is under on-site, direct supervision of the licensed audiologist or hearing aid provider.

A hearing aid **associate** is under direct and personal supervision of the licensed audiologist or hearing aid provider.

Trainees shall inform all consumers of their trainee status.

Neither a **trainee** nor an **associate** may sign contracts/purchase agreements. All contracts/purchase agreements must be reviewed and signed by a licensed audiologist or hearing aid provider at the time the buyer signs the contract/purchase agreement.

An individual may remain in **trainee or associate** status for no longer than three years from the date of issuance of the first temporary license, or 60 days after successful completion of the National Board for Certification – Hearing Instrument Science examination, whichever comes first.

It is the licensed audiologist's or hearing aid provider's responsibility to notify the Office of Audiology and Hearing Aid Provider Licensure when there is a termination of the supervisory arrangement for any reason other than successful completion of the training.

* For more information, please reference Rule 3 in the rules and regulations at <http://www.dora.state.co.us/audiologists/index.htm>

Contact us:

OFFICE OF AUDIOLOGY AND HEARING AID PROVIDER LICENSURE

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Consumer protection is our mission

LICENSING STATISTICS

As of December 28, 2009, Colorado has 388 active audiologists and 112 active hearing aid providers. These numbers are up slightly from the previous period (342 and 111 respectively).

ACTIVE LICENSE REQUIRES INSURANCE OR SURETY BOND

Section 12-5.5-102(3) (e), C.R.S. and Rule 2 requires an audiologist holding an active license to maintain malpractice coverage of at least \$1,000,000 per incident and \$3,000,000 aggregate per year. Section 12-5.5-202(2)(b)(III), C.R.S. requires a hearing aid provider holding an active license to maintain a surety bond in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 or alternative as authorized in section 11-35-101, C.R.S.

RENEWALS

Licenses are set to expire on March 31, 2010

Renew your license online using [Registrations Online Services](#). Renewals are generally made available 6 to 8 weeks prior to the license expiration date. Make sure you complete your renewal prior to March 31, 2010. There is a 60-day grace period after the March 31st deadline. Any licenses not renewed prior to May 31, 2010 will be considered expired. Once a license is in expired status, a reinstatement application must be filled out and additional fees must be paid.

This renewal period you will receive a **YELLOW RENEWAL NOTICE POSTCARD**. There is no personal information on this postcard (other than your name, address and license number). This is the only notice you will receive. Let other people in your household know that this yellow postcard is not junk mail!

You can pay your renewal fee online using a credit card, debit card or a prepaid credit card.

AFFIDAVIT OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT

Effective January 1, 2007, all persons requesting original licensure, renewal of an active license, or reinstatement of a expired license must complete and sign the Affidavit of Eligibility Form.

No license can or will be issued without this form.

The good news is that you can complete this form online when you use Registrations Online Services!

You must possess at least one secure and verifiable document and include information about that document on the Affidavit itself (or provide the information during online renewal).

The list of secure and verifiable documents is available to you when you renew online. We also have a web page where you can read the law, look at the Affidavit, and see the list of acceptable documents.

www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/Affidavit.htm



HAVE YOU MOVED LATELY?

It is imperative that all licensees keep their mailing address updated with the Division.

The Division mails renewal information to the licensee at the last address furnished to us. Failure to receive such a renewal notice does not relieve the licensee of the obligation to timely pay the renewal fee and submit appropriate documentation in support of the renewal application. If a licensee practices without an active license, he or she is in violation of the Practice Act!

The Registrations Online Services makes it easier for all licensed professionals to renew and update their mailing information at: <http://www.dora.state.co.us/registrations>

RULEMAKING

Audiology and Hearing Aid Provider Licensure will go through rulemaking this year. The rules will be updated and rules added regarding reporting of convictions and other adverse actions and the director's review of initial decisions. Notice of rulemaking along with the proposed changes will be posted on the website during the rulemaking process at www.dora.state.co.us/audiologists. The new rules will be posted on the website once they become effective. Please watch for the notice of rulemaking.

ANONYMOUS COMPLAINTS

Audiology and Hearing Aid Provider Licensure's website includes a complaint form. The complaint form includes all the information necessary for proper review of a complaint and alleged violation of the statute or rules. The complainant's information allows us to contact the complainant if the complaint is incomplete or lacks information regarding the alleged violation. When a complaint is received anonymously, the director has no way of obtaining missing information necessary to process the complaint. For this reason, anonymous complaints cannot always be processed. Nor can the complainant be notified if the review finds no violation. Since the licensee receives a copy of the complaint, an anonymous complaint makes it difficult for the licensee to answer allegations in the complaint in a complete manner. Since the Practice Act only regulates audiologists and hearing aid providers, the director can only accept complaints dealing with an individual's practice, not their business or company.

WALL CERTIFICATES

For those of you that may be interested, the Division of Registrations is pleased to announce that it has outsourced the production of wall certificates for Audiology and Hearing Aid Providers to Wall Certificate Service (WCS) a division of Professional Credential Services, Inc. (PCS). The outsourcing of the certificates provides enhancements to the certificates that both new and existing licensees will find beneficial. Specifically, the certificate provided by WCS is a larger, professionally designed, better quality certificate than what the Division was able to provide. For more information regarding wall certificates, which license types are eligible, and how to obtain one, please visit our website at <http://www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/wallcert.html>. You will be able to order and pay the fee online. The fee for U.S. residents is \$25 and for international residents there is an additional international shipping fee.

COMPLAINTS AND DISCIPLINE

Between January 1, 2008 and December 28, 2009, 47 new complaints were filed against audiologists, hearing aid providers, trainees, and associates in Colorado. The allegations include improper supervision of trainees or associates, unlicensed practice, failure to make refunds, deceptive trade practices, misleading advertising, failure to comply with final agency order, failure to practice according to professional standards, improper purchase agreement, and failure to maintain insurance or surety bond. Ten complaints filed against audiologists and 27 complaints filed against hearing aid providers were dismissed. Six complaints were resolved with two disciplinary actions. Five complaints are still open. Licensees disciplined since the last newsletter are as follows:

Licensee's Name	Date	Conduct	Disciplinary Sanction
Allison Biever	09/12/08	Practicing on expired license	Letter of Admonition
James Boggess	04/14/09	Failure to maintain surety bond	Voluntary Surrender
Kevin Cason	08/12/09	Unlicensed practice	Cease & Desist Order
Kevin Cason	12/03/09	Failure to practice according to professional standard	Stipulation
Donald Northey	10/15/09	Failure to maintain surety bond	Cease & Desist Order
John Pappert	04/17/08	Unlicensed practice	Cease & Desist Order
John Pappert	01/06/09	Failure to comply with final agency order	Stipulation
Katherine Sample	03/19/08	Deceptive trade practices	Stipulation
Katherine Sample	08/25/08	Practicing on expired license	Cease & Desist Order
Katherine Sample	11/19/08	Failure to comply with final agency order	Relinquishment
Scott Sanders	10/13/09	Failure to maintain surety bond	Voluntary Surrender
Chester Saxon	08/12/09	Unlicensed practice	Cease & Desist Order
Chester Saxon	09/21/09	Failure to practice according to professional standard	Stipulation
Bernadette Sivertsen	12/03/09	Failure to maintain surety bond	Voluntary Surrender
Gary Wood	01/02/08	Improper purchase agreement	Letter of Admonition

REGISTRATIONS ONLINE DOCUMENTS

The Department of Regulatory Agencies' **Registrations Online Documents (ROD)**, is a website that allows anyone to view images of scanned disciplinary documents through the Internet. In reviewing a licensee's information, it is important to know what is and is not available from the agency about Colorado licensees.

The following information would appear on a record under Board or Program Actions if applicable to the licensee:

1. If a licensee had been disciplined or formally accused of wrongdoing by the Board or Program.
2. If the Board or Program has taken some other non-disciplinary action against the licensee that restricts or limits the individual's license.

Board/Program Action Documents available via Registrations Online Documents (ROD)

- All **Stipulations, Final Agency Orders, and Suspensions** that were in effect in February 2000 plus any that became effective since that date. Child support suspensions are not available online but may be obtained by contacting the appropriate Board or Program.
- Any document **Revoking** or agreeing to a **Voluntary Relinquishment/Surrender** of license, **Cease and Desist Orders** and **Letters of Admonition** from January 1, 1999 to the present.
- All **Injunctions**.

If you are interested in viewing these disciplinary action documents, please visit Registrations Online Documents (ROD), found at: www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/ROD.htm.

SELF REPORT

When you receive a felony conviction or plea guilty or nolo contendere to a felony, the information needs to be reported to this office. Include a copy of the court documents along with your license information. If your audiologist or hearing aid provider license is disciplined in another state, you need to self-report to this office. Include a copy of the disciplinary document along with your licensure information in Colorado. All documents should be sent to: Audiology and Hearing Aid Provider Licensure, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1350, Denver, CO 80202.