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<http://www.azdhs.gov/als/slp/index.htm>

News and Views For Licensees

Welcome to Your Newsletter!

Throughout the past year, the Office of Special Licensing (OSL) has sought ways in which we can communicate more effectively with our licensees. As you may or may not be aware, the Office of Special Licensing oversees the licensing and regulation of several provider types which include:

Temporary Hearing Aid Dispensers, Hearing Aid Dispensers, Business Hearing Aid Dispensers, Audiologists, Dispensing Audiologists, Temporary Speech-Language Pathologists, Speech-Language Pathologists, Speech-Language Pathologists—Limited, Speech-Language Pathology Assistants, Midwives, and Group Homes for the Developmentally Disabled.

In addition to those licensing programs, the OSL also oversees the critical functions of Life Safety Code surveys and Architectural Review and Approval for all Healthcare Institutions and Child Care Facilities that are licensed by other offices within the Division of

Licensing Services. The OSL also manages communication between the Department of Health Services and the Board of Fingerprinting in the Department of Public Safety. Obviously, this office is very busy!

Our goal for this quarterly newsletter is to improve our ability to communicate with you, our licensees, and to provide you with current, relevant, and useful information related to our licensing and regulatory activities. We will endeavor to include up to date information about rules affecting your licensure as well as any legislative items that could impact your license or the functions of this office.

If you have any suggestions for content or are interested in being a guest writer for this Newsletter, please contact Rohno Geppert, Licensing Program Manager at (602) 364-3046.

Thank You and Welcome to **Your** Newsletter!

Speech and Hearing Professionals Advisory Committee

The Speech and Hearing Professionals Advisory Committee (SHPAC) is an ADHS Director appointed body consisting of 2 Hearing Aid Dispensers, 2 Audiologists, 2 Speech-Language Pathologists, 2 Physicians, 2 Members of the Public, 1 Representative from the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, the ADHS Director or designee. The SHPAC is tasked with quarterly open meetings at which important issues are discussed

and recommendations are made to the Department that are related to licensing, regulatory functions, rules and legislation, complaint investigations, and disciplinary actions.

Agendas and minutes can be found on the OSL website at:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/als/hadisp/index.htm>

FUN FACT: The first electric hearing aid was the Akoulathon, invented in 1898 by Miller Reese Hutchinson

SLPA Licensure

It is with great pleasure that we are able to inform you of two developments surrounding the licensing of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPA):

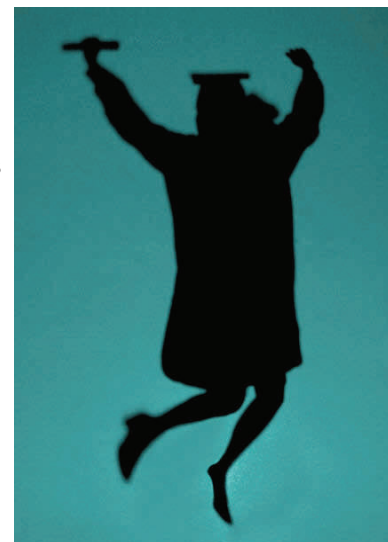
First, the Arizona Department of Health Services (Department), Division of Licensing Services/Office of Special Licensing has received approval from the Governor's Office to move ahead with the SLPA rulemaking. The process will proceed over the next 6 to 8 months until codified in the Arizona Administrative Code.

Secondly, in the mean time, the Department has made the determination to begin licensing SLPAs effective immediately as we move through the rulemaking process. Candidates who meet criteria are eligible to apply immediately without paying the licensing fee.

The SLPA licensing application can be downloaded from the ADHS/Office of Special Licensing website at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/als/slp/index.htm>

An application can also be mailed or faxed to you by calling the Office of Special Licensing at (602) 364-2079.

All of your staff in the Office of Special Licensing



FUN FACT: Virginia Apgar was a trail-blazer: one of Columbia University's first female M.D.s (1933), she pioneers then discipline of anesthesiology and child-birth, which led her to her greatest innovation: the Newborn Scoring System (better known as the "Apgar Score") for assessing the health of newborn infants, which she conceived in 1949, refined, and finally published in 1953. This innovation created a system for quickly and accurately assessing a baby's health in the crucial minutes after birth and is a staple tool used by midwives throughout the world!

What's Up With Midwifery?

The Office of Special Licensing (OSL) has been in the process of updating the midwifery rules. In January with the departure of Governor Napolitano, our new Governor, Jan Brewer, elected to order a moratorium on rulemaking. After two extensions on the moratorium, it is now set to expire mid October of 2009.

At that time the OSL hope to be approved to move forward with the rulemaking. We will be selecting a group of licensees who will take part in the crafting of the new rules and be assured that the rulemaking process affords all interested parties the ability to make comments for consideration by the working group.

More to follow as we near October!

Rules Focus

This column will be used to clarify some of the rules that may be a bit confusing or out of sync with related statutes. We invite our readers to submit rules which they would like to have some clarification on which can be done by emailing the OSL Licensing Program Manager Rohno Geppert at: Rohno.Geppert@azdhs.gov

In this edition we will clarify a

discrepancy between statute and rule related to the required number of continuing education (CE) hours needed for renewal for speech and hearing licensees:

The rule, A.A.C. R9-16-207 requires Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists to complete 8 hours of CE each licensure period. A.A.C. R9-16-308 requires Hearing Aid Dispensers to complete 8 hours of CE each licensure period.

In 2007 the statute, A.R.S.§36-

1904(C) & (D) was changed requiring **Hearing Aid Dispensers to complete 12 hours of CE and Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists to complete 10 hours of CE.**

Although both statutes and rules have the force and effect of law, when there is a discrepancy, the statute trumps the rule.

REMINDER! All CE coursework must relate to the clinical practice of a licensee.

A.A.C. R9-16-11

Tips of the Quarter for Initial Licensing

By law the Office of Special Licensing (OSL) is allowed 60 days from the time the application is administratively complete to process an application for licensure.

This means that our clock begins ticking off those 60 days only if all components of the application materials are present such as applicable certificates, transcripts, citizenship verification and supporting documentation.

What does all of this mean for the applicant?

Since it is a class 3 misdemeanor to practice without a license, it means you should apply 60 to 90 days before you intend to start practicing in order to give the OSL sufficient time to correspond with you regarding missing or incomplete items and then our 60 day timeframe.

You should know that we will always strive to work as

quickly as possible but with staffing shortages and a hiring freeze in effect, it is important to realize the potential length of time it **could** take the OSL to process your application and plan in a responsible manner accordingly.



“Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning”

Winston Churchill



“Plans are nothing, planning is everything”

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Tips of the Quarter for Renewals

Many licensees have complained about the amount of time it takes the Office of Special Licensing (OSL) to process their renewal application. As you may have read above, the OSL has 60 days to process an application by law.

However, you, the licensee, are allowed to submit an application for renewal 30 to 60 days before the expiration

date of your license. By doing so you increase the likelihood that your license will be renewed before the expiration day.

Why is heeding this recommendation a great idea?

Two reasons:

#1 If you put renewal off until after the expiration date you have to pay a \$25 late fee so

early submission could save you money! AND

#2 Getting your renewed license before it expires or very shortly thereafter will prevent your employer from having to call the OSL for verification of your license status.

Your employer will appreciate that you have been responsible with your license.

Sign Up for OSL Alerts!

In addition to this quarterly newsletter, part of our improved ability to communicate with our licensees and stakeholders will be through the development of an alerting system.

During urgent times when there is a pressing need to get out information

quickly to you, if you are signed up to receive OSL Alerts, you will receive an email describing the issue, circumstance, urgent nature of the alert, and other relevant “just in time” information.

To sign up for the Alerting system simply send an email to OSL.ALERTS@azdhs.gov

A Final Word From Rohno

Hi Folks!

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter and believe it will be useful to you as a licensee or stakeholder.

Your ideas, suggestions, recommendations, and feedback about what you liked and didn't like would be very much appreciated.

As always feel free to email me at Rohno.Geppert@azdhs.gov or you can reach me in the office at (602) 364-2079 Tuesday through Friday and every other Monday!

Rohno Geppert, MPA
Licensing Program Manager