

## Chapter 7. Code of Ethics

### §701. Preamble

A. The code of ethics of the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology specifies professional standards that allow for the proper discharge of professionals' responsibilities to those served and that protect the integrity of the profession.

B. Any action that violates the spirit and purpose of this code shall be considered unethical. Failure to specify any particular responsibility or practice in this code of ethics shall not be construed as denial of the existence of such responsibilities or practices.

C. Principles of ethics form the underlying moral basis for the code of ethics. Individuals shall observe these principles as affirmative obligations under all conditions of professional activity.

D. Rules of ethics are specific statements of minimally acceptable professional conduct or of prohibitions and are applicable to all individuals.

E. Rules of Ethics for Audiology, Provisional Audiology, Speech-Language Pathology, Provisional Speech-Language Pathology, and Restricted Speech-Language Pathology Licensees

1. Principle of Ethics I. Licensees shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve and provide professional services with honesty and compassion and shall respect the dignity, worth, and rights of those served. The licensee shall take all reasonable precautions to avoid harm to the individual served professionally.

a. Individuals shall use every resource, including referral when appropriate, to ensure that high-quality service is provided and shall not accept or offer benefits or items of personal value for receiving or making referrals.

b. Individuals shall not discriminate in the delivery of professional services on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

c. Individuals shall fully inform the persons they serve of the nature and possible effects of services rendered and products dispensed.

d. Individuals shall evaluate the effectiveness of services rendered and of products dispensed and shall provide services or dispense products only when benefits can reasonably be expected.

e. Individuals shall not guarantee the results of any treatment or procedure, directly or by implication; however, they may make a reasonable statement of prognosis.

f. Individuals may practice by telecommunication (i.e., telepractice, telehealth, e-health) provided they hold the appropriate licensure for the jurisdiction in which the service is rendered and delivered.

g. Individuals shall maintain adequate records of professional services rendered and products dispensed and shall allow access to these records when appropriately authorized.

h. Individuals shall not reveal, without authorization, any professional or personal information about the person served professionally, unless required by law to do so, or unless doing so is necessary to protect the welfare of the person or of the community.

i. Individuals shall not charge for services not rendered, nor shall they misrepresent, in any fashion, services rendered or products dispensed.

j. Individuals shall not carry out teaching, or research activities in a manner that constitutes an invasion of privacy, or that fails to inform persons fully about the nature and possible effects of these activities, affording all persons informed free-choice and participation.

k. Individuals whose professional services are adversely affected by substance abuse or other health-related conditions shall seek professional assistance and, where appropriate, withdraw from the affected areas of practice.

1. Individuals shall not discontinue service to those they are serving without providing reasonable notice and other resources.

2. Principle of Ethics II. Individuals shall honor their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of professional competence and performance consistent with prevailing practice standards.

a. Individuals shall provide all services competently. Individuals shall engage in only those aspects of the professions that are within the scope of their practice and competence, considering their level of licensure, education, training and experience.

b. Individuals shall hold the appropriate qualifications for the area(s) in which they are providing or supervising professional services.

c. Individuals shall continue their professional development throughout their careers.

d. Individuals shall provide appropriate supervision and assume full responsibility for services delegated to all supervisees, including assistants or aides. Individuals shall not delegate any service requiring professional competence to persons unqualified.

e. Individuals shall neither provide services nor supervision of services for which they have not been properly prepared, nor shall individuals require or permit their professional staff to provide services or conduct research activities that exceed the staff member's competence, level of education, training, or experience.

f. Individuals shall ensure that all equipment used in the provision of services is in proper working order and is properly calibrated.

3. Principle of Ethics III. Individuals shall honor their responsibility to the public by promoting public understanding of the professions, by supporting the development of services designed to fulfill the unmet needs of the public, and by providing accurate information in all communications involving any aspect of the professions.

a. Individuals shall not misrepresent their credentials, competence, education, training or experience.

b. Individuals shall not misrepresent the credentials of assistants, support personnel, students, or any others under their supervision and shall inform those they serve professionally of the name and professional credentials of persons providing services.

c. Individuals shall not participate in professional activities that constitute a conflict of interest.

d. Individuals shall not misrepresent diagnostic information, services rendered, or products dispensed, or engage in any scheme or maneuver to defraud in connection with obtaining payment or reimbursement for such services or product.

e. Individuals' statements to the public shall provide accurate information about the nature and management of communication disorders, about the professions, about professional services and about products.

f. Individuals' statements to the public advertising, announcing and marketing their professional services, reporting research results, and promoting products shall adhere to prevailing professional standards and shall not contain misrepresentations.

4. Principle of Ethics IV. Individuals shall honor their responsibilities to the professions and their relationships with colleagues, students, and members of other professions and disciplines. Individuals shall uphold the dignity and autonomy of the professions, maintain harmonious interprofessional and intraprofessional relationships, and accept the professions' self-imposed standards.

a. Individuals shall prohibit anyone under their supervision from engaging in any practice that violates the code of ethics.

b. Individuals shall not engage in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

c. Individuals shall not engage in any form of harassment, power abuse, or any other form of conduct that adversely reflects on the professions or on the individual's fitness to serve persons professionally.

d. Individuals shall not engage in sexual activity with a patient/client or students over whom they exercise professional authority.

e. Individuals shall assign credit only to those who have contributed to a publication, presentation, or product. Credit shall be assigned in proportion to the contribution and only with the contributor's consent.

f. Individuals shall reference the source when using other persons' ideas, research, presentations, or products in written, oral, or any other media presentation or summary.

g. Individuals' statements to colleagues about professional services, research results, and products shall adhere to prevailing professional standards and shall contain no misrepresentations.

h. Individuals shall not provide professional services without exercising independent professional judgment, regardless of referral source or prescription.

i. Individuals shall not discriminate in their relationships with colleagues, students, and members of other professions and disciplines on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

j. Individuals shall not violate these principles and rules, nor attempt to circumvent them.

k. Individuals shall inform the board of any violations of this code of ethics.

l. Individuals shall cooperate fully with the board on matters of professional conduct relative to this code of ethics.

F. Rules of Ethics for Speech-Language Pathology Assistant and Provisional Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Licensees

1. Principle of Ethics I. Licensees shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve and provide services with honesty and compassion and shall respect the dignity, worth, and rights of those served. The licensee shall take all reasonable precautions to avoid harm to the individual served.

a. Individuals shall not discriminate in the delivery of services on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

b. Individuals shall not perform clinical tasks without the knowledge and approval of the supervising speech-language pathologist nor shall the licensee interpret test results, guarantee results, make referrals, discharge patients/clients, or provide patient/client or family counseling.

c. Individuals may practice by telecommunication (i.e., telepractice, telehealth, e-health) under the supervision of a fully licensed individual, provided that both the supervisor and the supervisee hold the appropriate license for the jurisdiction in which the service is rendered and delivered.

d. Individuals shall maintain adequate records of services rendered and products dispensed and shall allow access to these records when appropriately authorized.

e. Individuals shall not reveal, without authorization, any professional or personal information about the person served, unless required by law to do so, or unless doing so is necessary to protect the welfare of the person or of the community.

f. Individuals shall not charge for services not rendered, nor shall they misrepresent, in any fashion, services rendered or products dispensed.

g. Individuals shall not carry out teaching, or research activities in a manner that constitutes an invasion of privacy, or that fails to inform persons fully about the nature and possible effects of these activities, affording all persons informed free-choice and participation.

h. Individuals whose services are adversely affected by substance abuse or other health-related conditions shall seek professional assistance and, where appropriate, withdraw from the affected areas of practice.

2. Principle of Ethics II. Individuals shall honor their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of competence and performance.

a. Individuals shall provide all services competently. Individuals shall engage in only those aspects of service provision that are within the scope of their practice and competence, considering their level of licensure, education, training and experience.

b. Individuals shall hold the appropriate qualifications for the area(s) in which they are providing services.

c. Individuals shall engage in lifelong learning throughout their careers.

d. Individuals shall not provide services unless appropriately supervised.

e. Individuals shall not provide services for which the licensee has not been properly prepared.

f. Individuals shall ensure that all equipment used in the provision of services is in proper working order and is properly calibrated.

3. Principle of Ethics III. Individuals shall honor their responsibility to the public by providing accurate information in all communications.

a. Individuals shall not misrepresent their credentials, competence, education, training or experience.

b. Individuals shall not participate in professional activities that constitute a conflict of interest.

c. Individuals shall not misrepresent information or services rendered, or engage in any scheme or maneuver to

defraud in connection with obtaining payment or reimbursement for services.

4. Principle of Ethics IV. Individuals shall honor their responsibilities and their relationships with colleagues and members of other professions and disciplines. Individuals shall maintain harmonious interprofessional and intraprofessional relationships.

a. Individuals shall not engage in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation

b. Individuals shall not engage in any form of harassment, power abuse, or any other form of conduct that adversely reflects on service delivery or on the individual's fitness to serve persons.

c. Individuals shall not engage in sexual activity with a patient/client.

d. Individuals shall assign credit only to those who have contributed to a publication, presentation, or product. Credit shall be assigned in proportion to the contribution and only with the contributor's consent.

e. Individuals shall reference the source when using other persons' ideas, research, presentations, or products in written, oral, or any other media presentation or summary.

f. Individuals' statements to colleagues about services, research, or products shall adhere to prevailing standards and shall contain no misrepresentations.

g. Individuals shall not discriminate in their relationships with colleagues and members of other professions and disciplines on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability.

h. Individuals shall not violate these principles and rules, nor attempt to circumvent them.

i. Individuals shall inform the board of any violations of this code of ethics.

j. Individuals shall cooperate fully with the board on matters of professional conduct relative to this code of ethics.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 37:2650 et seq.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, LR 17:370 (April 1991), amended LR 22:360 (May 1996), LR 30:2324 (October 2004), LR 33:2201 (October 2007), LR 37:2399 (August 2011), LR 39:1044 (April 2013).