

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY (LBESPA)**

IN THE MATTER OF

LBESPA COMPLAINT #2026-16

CHRISTINA GUTIERREZ

SLP LICENSE #8368

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Christina Gutierrez ("Ms. Gutierrez") is a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist subject to the jurisdiction and Rules and Regulations of the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "Board"), including the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act (La. R.S. 37:2650, *et seq.*), and the Professional and Occupational Standards for Speech Pathology and Audiology (LAC 46:LXXV §103, *et seq.*); at all times referenced; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to an administrative complaint and investigation, the Speech-Language Pathologist, Christina Gutierrez, has indicated her desire to resolve this matter through a Consent Agreement and Order as provided for in Rule No. 501(H) of the Board's Rules and Regulations and La. R.S. 49:975(D) of the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act; and

WHEREAS, Christina Gutierrez has admitted the following:

1. Ms. Gutierrez is and was, at all times pertinent to the facts and matters alleged herein, a Speech-Language Pathologist licensed by the Board to engage in the practice of speech-language pathology in the State of Louisiana pursuant to the

Louisiana Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act, La. R.S. 37:2650, *et seq.*, as evidenced by License No. 8368.

2. Ms. Gutierrez has held a Speech-Language Pathology license since March 26, 2020.
3. Ms. Gutierrez was the Speech-Language Pathology supervisor of record at all times pertinent to the facts and matters alleged herein, for Harleigh Farace, Speech-Language Pathology Assistant licensee. Ms. Gutierrez states that she provided supervision for Harleigh Farace from August 2022 – May 2025, although the Board records only reflect one Supervision Agreement Form on file covering June 30, 2023 – June 30, 2024.
4. At all times pertinent hereto, Ms. Gutierrez was actively engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology and contracted/employed by the Tangipahoa Parish School System.
5. As a Speech-Language Pathology supervisor, Ms. Gutierrez was responsible for the services to the client and was responsible for ensuring that all services and supervision were provided in compliance with the Practice Act and Rules and Regulations. Based on the type of license held, Ms. Farace was required to obtain supervision at the rate of a minimum of one clock hour of direct supervision and one clock hour of indirect supervision each week in the primary work setting.

WHEREAS, the Board's investigation revealed:

- a. At the time of renewal on June 30, 2025, Ms. Farace submitted documentation evidencing that supervision for 31 of the 39 school weeks failed to

meet the minimum requirements of a speech-language pathology assistant license.

b. Neither Ms. Gutierrez, nor her supervisee, Ms. Farace, were able to submit documentation to prove that the required supervision was obtained.

WHEREAS, by failing to provide appropriate supervision as defined in Rule 131.R., Christina Gutierrez is in violation of **La. R.S. 37:2662(4)** and **Rule 701.E.(1)** which states that licensees shall honor their responsibility to hold paramount the welfare of persons they serve professionally...provide professional services with honesty and compassion, and respect the rights of those served. The licensee shall take all reasonable precautions to avoid harm to the individual served professionally. Further, she violated **Rule 701.E.(1)(e)**, which states that individuals may delegate tasks related to the provision of clinical services to...assistants...only if those persons are adequately trained and appropriately supervised. The responsibility for the welfare of those served remains with the fully licensed individual. She is also in violation of **Rule 701.E.(4)(i)**, which states that individuals shall not allow anyone under their supervision to engage in any practice that violates any provision of the Practice Act or Rules and Regulations, including the Code of Ethics.

WHEREAS, Christina Gutierrez engaged in **unprofessional conduct**, which is a violation of **La. R.S. 37:2662(5)**. Such conduct is also a violation of **Rule 701.E.(4)(m)**, which states that individuals shall comply with local, state, and federal laws and regulations applicable to professional practice... and **Rule 701.E.(2)**, which states that individuals shall honor their responsibility to achieve and maintain the highest level of professional competence and performance consistent with prevailing practice standards.

WHEREAS, the Board is persuaded that it is in the best interest of the public to enter into this Consent Agreement and Order, the conditions of which are set forth hereafter;

WHEREAS, Christina Gutierrez hereby formally waives any and all legal, administrative, procedural, or judicial remedies, appeals, or relief that may be available in the Administrative Procedure Act, the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act (La. R.S. 37:2650, *et seq.*), the Professional and Occupational Standards for Speech Pathology and Audiology (LAC 46:LXXV §103, *et seq.*), or any other law;

WHEREAS, the Board and Ms. Gutierrez have entered into this Consent Agreement and Order by which the Board agrees to resolve the complaint. Ms. Gutierrez agrees to accept the following specified conditions in resolution of the complaint.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that in consideration of the foregoing and pursuant to the authority vested in the Board by La. R.S. 49:975(D), the Board orders and Ms. Gutierrez accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977:

1. The license of Ms. Gutierrez to be engaged in the practice of Speech-Language Pathology in the State of Louisiana, as evidenced by License Number 8368 is REPRIMANDED based upon the allegations set forth herein. Ms. Gutierrez accepts and shall maintain strict compliance with the following terms and conditions.
2. Ms. Gutierrez shall successfully complete an open book examination, regarding Louisiana Revised Statutes 37:2650-2666 (The Practice Act); the Board's Rules

and Regulations; and Ethical Questions, within ninety (90) days from the date that all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order and pay all related testing fees.

3. Ms. Gutierrez is prohibited from supervising any speech-language pathology licensees for a period of 6 months. After this period has concluded, Ms. Gutierrez may petition the Board to reinstate her supervisory privileges.
4. Ms. Gutierrez shall pay a \$1,000.00 fine within ninety (90) days from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order, which one-time payment shall be made by credit or debit card.
5. Ms. Gutierrez waives any and all legal, procedural, or judicial remedies, appeals, or relief which might be available under the Administrative Procedure Act, the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act (La. R.S. 37:2650, *et seq.*), the Professional and Occupational Standards for Speech Pathology and Audiology (LAC 46:LXXV §103, *et seq.*), or any other law.
6. Ms. Gutierrez specifically acknowledges that failure to comply with the terms of this Consent Agreement and Order in a timely manner without LBESPA's authorization shall be grounds for the **SUSPENSION** of her license pending further proceedings before the Board. The admissions contained herein, will be considered proven and the only issue will be failure to follow the terms of the Consent Agreement and Order.

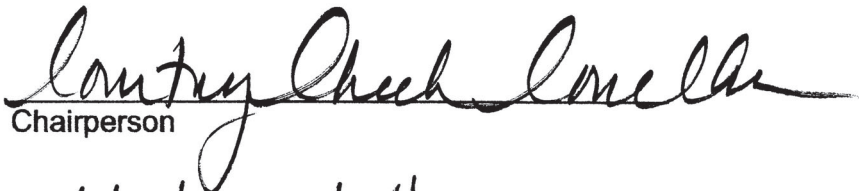
THIS CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER is a matter of public record for violation of the above referenced sections of the Louisiana Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations. Ms. Gutierrez is to be Publicly Reprimanded for violation of the above referenced sections in the Practice Act (La. R.S.

37:2650, *et seq.*) and the Board Rules and Regulations. Such reprimand shall include publication by LBESPA, reported to the Louisiana Speech-Language Hearing Association (LSHA), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), and to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

I, **CHRISTINA GUTIERREZ**, make these acknowledgements and waivers in support of a final disposition of Case No. 2026-16 by Consent Agreement and Order pursuant to La. R.S. 49:975(D), in lieu of the institution and prosecution of formal administrative proceedings, and accordingly consent to the entirety of the Order set forth hereinbefore and further waive any right to which I may be entitled under the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act or any other law to contest, in any court, my agreement to this Order. By my subscription hereto, I also hereby authorize the Board attorney or LBESPA Executive Director to present this Order to LBESPA for its consideration and to disclose to and discuss with LBESPA the nature and results of the investigation of this matter. I herein waive any objection to such disclosure based on due process of law under either the State or Federal Constitution or under State statutory law, including La. R.S. 49:977.2. I expressly acknowledge that the disclosure of such information to LBESPA shall be without prejudice to the attorney's authority to file a formal Administrative Complaint, or LBESPA's capacity to adjudicate such Administrative Complaint, should LBESPA decline to approve this Consent Agreement and Order. I further acknowledge my awareness that should LBESPA approve this Consent Agreement and Order that the Consent Agreement and Order will become a matter of public record.

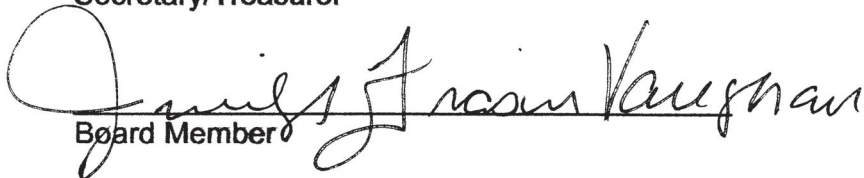
IN WITNESS HEREOF, the Louisiana Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and

executed same at Baton Rouge, Louisiana on this 20th day of March, 2026.


Chairperson


Vice Chairperson

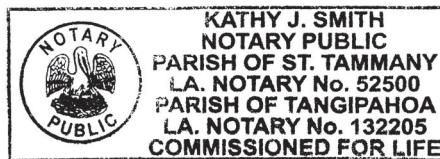

Secretary/Treasurer


Board Member

IN WITNESS HEREOF, Christina Gutierrez, Speech-Language Pathologist, has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and executed same at Manassville, Louisiana, on this 24th day of December, 2025.

Christina Gutierrez
Christina Gutierrez

Kathy J. Smith
Notary Public



***"Notary swears as to
signatures only. Notary did
not produce document."***