

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

**IN THE MATTER OF

SHELBY HOWDER**

**LBESPA COMPLAINT #2026-38

L-SLP LICENSE #10039**

CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

WHEREAS, Shelby Howder (“Ms. Howder”) 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, the Speech-Language Pathologist, Shelby Howder, 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 Procedures Act; and

WHEREAS, Shelby Howder has admitted the following:

1. Ms. Howder 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. 10039.

2. At all times pertinent hereto, Ms. Howder was actively engaged in the practice of speech-language pathology.

WHEREAS, the Board's investigation revealed:

- a. Ms. Howder failed to disclose an arrest on the Application for Licensure of her speech-language pathology license, which was submitted on July 22, 2025.

WHEREAS, by failing to report the arrest at the time of application, Shelby Howder has obtained the renewal of her license by means of fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts, which is a violation of **La. R.S. 37:2662(2)**. It also violates **Rule 701E(4)(e)** of the Rules and Regulations, which states that individuals shall not engage in dishonesty, negligence, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation. It also violates **Rule 701E(4)(f)** of the Rules and Regulations, which states that Applicants for licensure or registration, and individuals making disclosures shall not make false statements and shall complete all application and disclosure materials honestly and without omission.

WHEREAS, Shelby Howder engaged in **unprofessional conduct**, which is a violation of **La. R.S. 37:2662(5)**. Such conduct is also a violation of **Rule 701E(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, **Rule 701E(4)(d)**, which states that individuals shall not engage in any form of conduct that adversely reflects on the professions or on the individual's fitness to serve persons professionally and **Rule 701E(4)(m)**, which states that individuals shall comply with local, state, and federal laws and regulations applicable to professional practice.

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, Shelby Howder 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. Howder have entered into this Consent Agreement and Order by which the Board agrees to resolve the complaint. Ms. Howder 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 Shelby Howder accepts the following administrative action which is a final decision pursuant to La. R.S. 49:977:

1. Ms. Howder shall successfully complete an open book examination, regarding Louisiana Revised Statute 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.
2. Ms. Howder shall pay a \$750.00 fine within six (6) months from the date all parties sign this Consent Agreement and Order. This one-time payment shall be made by credit or debit card.

3. Ms. Howder 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.
4. Ms. Howder 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. Howder 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, Louisiana Speech-Language Hearing Association (LSHA), American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), and the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

I, **SHELBY HOWDER**, make these acknowledgements and waivers in support of a final disposition of Case Nos. 2026-38 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

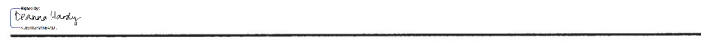
and further waive any right to which I may be entitled under the Louisiana Administrative Procedure Act or any other law to contest, in any court, my agreement to this Order. By my subscription hereto, I also hereby authorize the Board attorney or LBESPA Executive Director to present this Order to LBESPA 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.

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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.

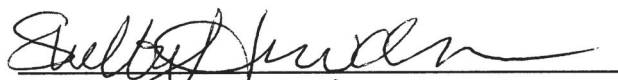

Chairperson

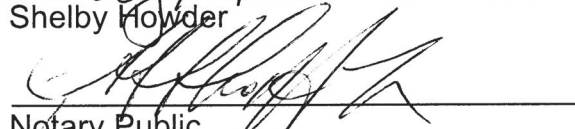

Vice Chairperson


Secretary/Treasurer


Board Member

IN WITNESS HEREOF, Shelby Howder, Speech-Language Pathologist, has entered into this Consent Agreement and Order and executed same at New Orleans, Louisiana, on this 17th day of December, 2026.


Shelby Howder


Notary Public

