

## TO BE RESCINDED

4753-9-01

**Code of ethics.**

- (A) Preamble: Speech-language pathologists and audiologists have a belief in the inherent worth, integrity, and dignity of each individual and his/her right of self-determination. They hold a firm belief in equality of opportunity that is limited only by the individual's innate capacity. Their roles commit them to increasing the knowledge of human behavior, and they must have freedom of inquiry and of communication to pursue this end, while recognizing the responsibility that this freedom confers. Because of the special roles speech-language pathologists and audiologists have in affecting the lives and welfare of the persons they serve or supervise, it is essential that they are actively aware of the need to eliminate sexism, racism, religious discrimination, and any traditions and practices that impede or deny human rights to any person or group. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not discriminate in his/her relationships with colleagues, students, and members of the allied professions on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability. The relationship between the professional and the person(s) served or supervised makes it imperative that the professional is aware of the vulnerability of the person(s) served or supervised and under no circumstances engages in sexual or intimate relations with the person(s) served or supervised. It is specially essential that no person served or supervised be abused in any manner. To protect public confidence, it is important that public behavior reflect a high level of moral and ethical integrity. Speech-language pathologists and audiologists recognize that conduct which results in the denial or revocation of licensure in another state, or from another board in this state, will also make them liable for denial or revocation of licensure by the board of speech-language pathology and audiology. Proficiency in areas of treatment, objectivity in the application of skills, and concern for the best interests of person(s) served or supervised, colleagues, and society as a whole are ideals for the speech-language pathologists and audiologists; therefore, they subscribe to these principles and the code of ethics adopted by the board of speech-language pathology and audiology and agree to abide by the rules of the board.
- (B) This code of ethics sets forth the fundamental rules considered essential to this purpose. Violation of the code of ethics shall be considered unprofessional conduct in violation of division (I) of section 4753.10 of the Revised Code.
- (1) A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not engage in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, or other forms of all illegal conduct that adversely reflect on the profession or the individual's fitness for licensure. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall cooperate fully with the board concerning matters of professional conduct related to the Revised Code or Administrative Code. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall inform the board when they have reason to believe that a licensee or applicant

may have violated the Revised Code or Administrative Code. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall hold paramount the welfare of person(s) served or supervised professionally.

- (2) A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall maintain high standards of professional competence. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall continue their professional development throughout their careers. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not provide services for which he/she is not properly trained. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall ensure that all equipment used in the provision of services is in proper working order and is properly calibrated. A speech-language pathologist's or audiologist's statements to person(s) served or supervised professionally and to the public shall provide accurate information about the nature and management of communicative disorders, and about the profession and services rendered by its practitioners. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not use professional or commercial affiliations in any way that would mislead or limit services to person(s) served or supervised professionally. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall announce services in a manner consonant with highest professional standards in the community. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall assign credit to those who have contributed to a publication in proportion to their contribution.
- (3) A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall evaluate services rendered and products dispensed to determine effectiveness. A speech-language pathologist's or audiologist's public statements providing information about professional services and products shall not contain representations or claims that are false, deceptive or misleading. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not engage in commercial activities that conflict with the responsibilities to person(s) served or supervised by him/her professionally or to professional colleagues. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not misrepresent his/her training or competence.
- (4) A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall maintain adequate records of professional services rendered. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall provide appropriate access to records of person(s) served or supervised professionally. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not reveal to unauthorized persons any confidential information obtained from any person(s) served or supervised professionally without the written consent of that person or his/her legal guardian. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not use persons for teaching or research in a manner that constitutes invasion of privacy or fails to afford informed free choice to participate. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall fully inform subjects participating in research or teaching activities of the nature and

possible effects of these activities.

- (5) A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall take all reasonable precautions to avoid injuring persons in the delivery of professional services. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall fully inform person(s) served of the nature and possible effects of these services. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not discriminate in the delivery of professional services on any basis that is unjustifiable or irrelevant to the need for and potential benefit from such services, such as race, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or disabling condition. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not evaluate or treat speech, language or hearing disorders except in a professional relationship. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not provide professional services without exercising independent professional judgment, regardless of referral source or prescription. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not evaluate or treat solely by correspondence. This does not preclude follow-up correspondence with persons previously seen, nor providing them with general information of an educational nature. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not guarantee the results of any speech or hearing consultative or therapeutic procedure. A guarantee of any sort, express or implied, oral or written, is contrary to professional ethics. A reasonable statement of prognosis is not improper, but successful results are dependent upon many uncontrollable factors, hence, any warranty is deceptive and unethical. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not exploit person(s) served professionally by accepting them for treatment if benefit cannot reasonably be expected to accrue, by continuing treatment without reasonable expectation of further benefit, or by charging exorbitant fees. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall use every resource available, including referrals to other specialists as needed, to effect maximum improvement in person(s) served. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall identify competent, dependable referral sources for person(s) served professionally.
- (6) A speech-language pathologist's or audiologist's charges shall be commensurate with services rendered. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not charge for services not rendered. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not accept fees, gifts, or forms of gratuity for serving as a sponsor or supervisor of professional experience required for licensure. Speech-language pathologists or audiologists may accept reimbursement for actual expenses incurred. Neither shall he/she accept compensation in any form from a manufacturer, dealer or salesman of prosthetics or other devices for recommending a particular product unless such products benefit person(s) served.

- (7) A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not supervise professional experience of a conditional licensee unless he/she has completed thirty-six months of full-time clinical experience within the past sixty months unless approved by the board. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not delegate any service requiring the professional competence of a licensed clinician to anyone unqualified. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not offer clinical services by supportive personnel for whom they do not provide appropriate supervision and assume full responsibility. A speech-language pathologist or audiologist shall not require anyone under their supervision to engage in any practice that is a violation of the code of ethics. A speech-language pathology aide or an audiology aide or a conditional licensee shall provide services only pursuant to a specific plan approved by the board. A speech-language pathology aide or an audiology aide shall not represent himself to the public as a speech-language pathologist or an audiologist. A person shall not serve as a supervisor of the clinical practice of a student or intern while completing the year of supervised professional experience required for licensure under section 4753.06 of the Revised Code.
- (C) A speech-language pathologist or audiologist who intends to accept cases for their private practice from the place of primary employment shall observe the following:
- (1) The person(s) served professionally shall be fully informed of services available from the licensee's primary employment setting as well as those from the private practice and given freedom to choose whether and from whom they will obtain professional services.
  - (2) The costs associated with obtaining services from the licensee's primary employment setting versus those associated with the private practice shall be made clear.
  - (3) Practitioners accepting cases in a private setting from their primary place of employment shall inform the administrator at their primary employment setting of their intent.

Effective:

R.C. 119.032 review dates: 05/20/2004

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Certification

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Date

Promulgated Under: 119.03  
Statutory Authority: RC 4753.05  
Rule Amplifies: RC 4753.05 (A)  
Prior Effective Dates: 2/9/1973, 4/22/76, 11/16/92  
(Emer.), 9/10/94, 7/24/2000