

Notice Regarding Early Intervention Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Credential

On December 23, 2004, Public Act 93-1060 became law. This law amends the Illinois Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act, in part, allowing a person with a bachelor's degree in communications disorder that meets the stated employment requirements to apply by July 1, 2005 for a license as a speech-language pathology assistant.

From Public Act 93-1060

(225 ILCS 110/8.5)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2008)

Sec. 8.5. Qualifications for licenses as a speech-language pathology assistant.

(a) A person is qualified to be licensed as a speech-language pathology assistant if that person has applied in writing on forms prescribed by the Department, has paid the required fees, and meets both of the following criteria:

(1) Is of good moral character. In determining moral character, the Department may take into consideration any felony conviction of the applicant, but such a conviction shall not operate automatically as a complete bar to licensure.

(2) Has received an associate degree from a speech-language pathology assistant program that has been approved by the Department and that meets the minimum requirements set forth in Section 8.6.

(b) Until ~~July 1, 2005~~ ~~January 1, 2004~~, a person holding a bachelor's level degree in communication disorders who was employed to assist a speech-language pathologist on ~~June 1, 2002~~ ~~(the effective date of P.A. 92-510)~~ ~~the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 92nd General Assembly~~ shall be eligible to receive a license as a speech-language pathology assistant from the Department upon completion of forms prescribed by the Department and the payment of the required fee.

(Source: P.A. 92-510, eff. 6-1-02.)

Early Intervention rule requires that individuals holding a Speech/Language Therapy Assistant credential have a current license in order to qualify for and maintain the credential. An exception to this requirement is made for unlicensed individuals with a master in speech-language pathology who are participating in a supervised professional experience.

All Speech/Language Therapy Assistants, other than those with a master in speech-language pathology who are participating in a supervised professional experience, must have a current license as a speech-language pathology assistant on file with Provider Connections by June 30, 2005. (Provider Connections, 27 Horrabin Hall, 1 University Circle, Western Illinois University, Macomb, IL 61455) The credentials of Speech/Language Therapy Assistants who do not provide this documentation will become inactive on July 1, 2005 and will be ineligible to provide Early Intervention services. Claims for services that were provided by uncredentialed individuals will not be paid.

For license application materials and for information about licensing requirements, please contact the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR), Division of Professional Regulation, or visit their web site at <http://www.ildpr.com/default2.asp>. Please submit your application as soon as possible and allow a minimum of eight weeks for it to be processed by IDFPR.