

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF HEARING AID DEALERS & DISPENSERS
Rules Committee Conference Call Meeting Minutes * April 24, 2014
Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive * Macon, Georgia 31217

A conference call Rules Committee meeting of the Georgia State Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Dispensers was held on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at the Professional Licensing Boards Office, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

The following Board members were present:

Ralph T. Jackson, Jr., Chair
Joseph Stock
Deborah Brillling, Consumer Member

Additional Board Members Present:

Jason Murphy

Administrative Staff Present:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Wylencia Monroe, Assistant Attorney General

The conference call rules committee meeting was called to order at 7:31 a.m.

Agenda: Late agenda item: Amendment to Rule 276-13-.01 Unprofessional Conduct
Agenda approved with late agenda item as presented

Proposed New Rules Discussion:

- 276-9-.01 Apprentice Permit – DRAFT

276-9-.01 ~~Repealed~~ **Apprentice Permit.**

(1) In order to apply for a hearing aid apprentice permit, the applicant shall:

(a) Submit an Application for a Hearing Aid Apprenticeship Permit and the required fee;

(b) Submit a “Statement of Supervision” from the licensed Georgia hearing aid **dispenser** who will supervise the apprentice permit holder’s practice;

(c) Submit a “Statement of Supervision” from the licensed Georgia hearing aid **dealer** who will employ the apprentice permit holder, supervise the apprentice permit holder and who can attest that the applicant is capable of making the tests and applying the techniques required to dispense hearing aids in accordance with OCGA 43-20;

(d) Submit proof of age as confirmed in a secure and verifiable document, as defined in Code Section 50-36-2;

(e) Submit proof of passage of the practical portion of the examination required for a license to dispense hearing aids.

(2) Upon approval of the application, a non-renewable apprentice permit will be issued for a period of one (1) year. A non-renewable, one-year apprentice permit allows the permit holder to practice while in an apprenticeship and under the supervision of a licensed dispenser.

(a) The applicant may request delay in issuance of the apprentice permit for good cause shown, and the granting, or denial, of such request is within the discretion of the Board. The holder of an apprentice permit may request a stay of the effective period of the permit for good cause shown, and the granting, or denial, of such request is within the discretion of the Board.

(b) Every apprentice permit holder shall be approved to sit for the next available written exam and every subsequent scheduled examination until all sections of the written exam are passed, or the permit expires or is revoked by the Board. The board shall have the power to revoke a permit without a hearing if the holder of an apprentice dispenser permit fails to pass the written portion of the examination on two occasions.

(3) An apprentice permit holder shall be at all times the permit is in force in an “apprenticeship” under the limited direct supervision of a Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser. Adequate supervision by a Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) Limited direct supervision means the Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser responsible for the apprentice permit holders supervision is, at a minimum, accessible by telephone during working hours and must be readily available to the apprentice permit holder for direction, guidance and instruction;

(b). The supervising Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser shall be in face-to-face contact for a minimum of eight (8) hours during the apprentice permit holders work week. The onsite contacts shall include, but are not be limited to, a documented review by the supervisor of all paperwork prepared, and the direct observation of testing procedures by the apprentice permit holder;

(c) Both supervisors and supervisees are required to maintain a contemporaneous record of the date, duration and a brief summary of the pertinent activity for each supervision session to be submitted to the Board upon request. If there are any discrepancies in hours, contemporaneous documentation of supervision will be requested.

(d) While under the limited direct supervision of a Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser, an apprentice permit holder may engage in the practice of dispensing of hearing aid devices.

(4) There may be no more than two (2) apprentice permit holders under a supervising Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser at any given time. Apprentice permit holders must cause a current supervising Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser to submit to the Board in writing that they are no longer the apprentice permit holders supervisor, and the reason for the disassociation in order for an apprentice permit holder to obtain a new supervising Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser.

- 276- - Training Permit – DRAFT

276-9-.02 Repealed Training Permit.

(1) In order to apply for a hearing aid training permit, the applicant shall:

(a) Submit an Application for a Hearing Aid Training Permit and the required fee;

(b) Submit a “Statement of Supervision” from the licensed Georgia hearing aid **dispenser** who will supervise the apprentice permit holder’s practice;

(c) Proof of Age as confirmed in a secure and verifiable document, as defined in Code Section 50-36-2.

(2) Once approved and issued, the training permit shall authorize the person to dispense hearing aids only under “DIRECT SUPERVISION AND IMMEDIATE OBSERVATION” of a Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser who shall be responsible for trainees compliance with this chapter. Adequate supervision by a Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) Direct supervision means the Georgia licensed hearing aid supervising dispenser shall be physically present with the training permit holder at all times in the Georgia licensed dealership.

(b) A training permit is issued only for a six (6) month period and may be renewed as often as necessary for subsequent six (6) month time periods so long as the requirements of this code section for issuance of permits are met for each renewal. In order to renew a training permit, the permit holder must submit a renewal form and the required fee.

(c) Both supervisors and supervisees are required to maintain a contemporaneous record of the dates, duration, type and a brief summary of the pertinent activity of the supervision to be submitted to the Board upon request. If there are any discrepancies in hours, contemporaneous documentation of supervision will be requested.

(d) While under the direct supervision and immediate observation of a Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser, a training permit holder may engage in the practice of dispensing of hearing aid devices.

(3) In order to become a licensed Hearing Aid Dispenser the holder of a training permit must pass all portions of the practical and written examinations required for licensure.

(4) The holder of a training permit may apply for an apprentice permit at any time pursuant to Board rule 276-9-.01, however, both permits cannot be held at the same time.

(5) There may be no more than one (1) training permit holder under a supervising Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser at any given time. Training permit holders must cause a current supervising Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser to submit to the Board in writing that they are no longer the training permit holders supervisor, and the reason for the disassociation in order for a training permit holder to obtain a new supervising Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser.

- 276-13-.01 Unprofessional Conduct

276-13-.01 Unprofessional Conduct.

(1) O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19 and 43-20-16 authorize the Board to take disciplinary action against licensees for unprofessional conduct or committing any professionally immoral act. Unprofessional conduct shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) Dispensing a hearing aid de vice or instrument in the absence of an appropriate dispenser/client relationship.

(2) An appropriate dispenser/client relationship exists when:

(a) The licensed dispenser assumes the responsibility for the dispensing of a hearing aid device or instrument and exercises the judgment necessary regarding conducting testing, determining the suitability for use of a hearing aid, assisting with the selection of suitable aids to properly compensate the hearing condition, to fit aids to the client and to counsel and instruct in the use of the hearing aid device or instrument;

(b) The licensed dispenser has a sufficient knowledge of the client to initiate at least a general or preliminary determination of a hearing deficiency. This means that the dispenser has recently seen and is personally acquainted with the client by virtue of a proper examination and/or by appropriate and timely follow-up evaluation; and

(c) The dispenser is readily available for follow-up care in case of the failure of the device or instrument.

(3) The failure of a licensed Georgia hearing aid dispenser to supervise an apprentice or training permit holder with regard to the minimum requirements stipulated for a Georgia licensed hearing aid dispenser supervisor as defined in rule 276-9-.01 and 276-9-.02.

The Rules Committee agreed upon the above stated proposed new rules and the amendment to an existing rule to be presented to the full Board next scheduled meeting, June 17, 2014 for consideration and approval.

There being no other discussion by the rules committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

Minutes recorded, reviewed and edited by:

RALPH JACKSON

Chair

Georgia State Board of Hearing Aid
Dealers and Dispensers

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director, HC1

BRIG ZIMMERMAN

Executive Director

Professional Licensing Boards Division

These minutes were approved and signed on: June 17, 2014