

CHAPTER 154F
SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

Referred to in §85B.9, 135.24, 135.61, 147.76, 154A.19, 216E.7, 249A.15B, 514C.30

Enforcement, §147.87, 147.92
Penalty, §147.86

Payment for speech pathology services to medical assistance recipients, §249A.15B

Table with 4 columns: Code, Description, Code, Description. Rows include 154F.1 Definitions, 154F.2 Applicability, 154F.3 Requirements for license, 154F.4 Waiver of examination requirement, 154F.5 Temporary clinical license — fee, and 154F.6 Temporary permit.

154F.1 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 1. "Audiologist" means a person who engages in the practice of audiology.
2. "Board" means the board of speech pathology and audiology established pursuant to section 147.14, subsection 1, paragraph "h".
3. The "practice of audiology" means the application of principles, methods, and procedures for measurement, testing, evaluation, prediction, consultation, counseling, instruction, habilitation, rehabilitation, or remediation related to hearing and disorders of hearing and associated communication disorders for the purpose of nonmedically evaluating, identifying, preventing, ameliorating, modifying, or remediating such disorders and conditions in individuals or groups of individuals, including the determination and use of appropriate amplification.
4. The "practice of speech pathology" means the application of principles, methods, and procedures for the measurement, testing, evaluation, prediction, consultation, counseling, instruction, habilitation, rehabilitation, or remediation related to the development and disorders of speech, fluency, voice, or language for the purposes of nonmedically evaluating, preventing, ameliorating, modifying, or remediating such disorders and conditions in individuals or groups of individuals.
5. "Speech pathologist" means a person who engages in the practice of speech pathology. 2008 Acts, ch 1088, §71

154F.2 Applicability.

- 1. Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to apply to:
a. Licensed physicians and surgeons, licensed osteopathic physicians and surgeons, and licensed physician assistants, registered nurses acting under the supervision of a physician or osteopathic physician, persons conducting hearing tests under the direct supervision of a licensed physician and surgeon or licensed osteopathic physician and surgeon, or students of medicine or surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery pursuing a course of study in a medical school or college of osteopathic medicine and surgery approved by the board of medicine while performing functions incidental to their course of study.
b. Hearing aid fitting, the dispensing or sale of hearing aids, and the providing of hearing aid service and maintenance by a hearing aid specialist or holder of a temporary permit as defined and licensed under chapter 154A.
c. Students enrolled in an accredited college or university pursuing a course of study leading to a degree in speech pathology or audiology while receiving clinical training as a part of the course of study and acting under the supervision of a licensed speech pathologist or audiologist provided they use the title "trainee" or similar title clearly indicating training status.
d. Nonprofessional aides who perform their services under the supervision of a speech pathologist or audiologist as appropriate and who meet such qualifications as may be established by the board for aides if they use the title "aide", "assistant", "technician", or other similar title clearly indicating their status.
e. Audiometric tests administered pursuant to the United States Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 or chapter 88, and in accordance with regulations issued thereunder,

by employees of a person engaged in business, including the state of Iowa, its various departments, agencies, and political subdivisions, solely to employees of such employer, while acting within the scope of their employment.

f. Persons certified by the department of education as speech clinicians or hearing clinicians and employed by a school district or area education agency while acting within the scope of their employment.

2. A person exempted from the provisions of [this chapter](#) by [this section](#) shall not use the title “speech pathologist” or “audiologist” or any title or device indicating or representing in any manner that the person is a speech pathologist or is an audiologist; provided, a hearing aid specialist licensed under [chapter 154A](#) may use the title “certified hearing aid audiologist” when granted by the national hearing aid society; and provided, persons who meet the requirements of [section 154F.3, subsection 1](#), who are certified by the department of education as speech clinicians may use the title “speech pathologist” and persons who meet the requirements of [section 154F.3, subsection 2](#), who are certified by the department of education as hearing clinicians may use the title “audiologist”, while acting within the scope of their employment.

[2008 Acts, ch 1088, §72](#); [2009 Acts, ch 133, §61](#); [2015 Acts, ch 57, §14, 15](#); [2023 Acts, ch 73, §18](#)

154F.3 Requirements for license.

Each applicant for a license as a speech pathologist or audiologist shall meet all of the following requirements:

1. For a license as a speech pathologist:

a. Possess a master’s degree from an accredited school, college, or university with a major in speech pathology.

b. Show evidence of completion of not less than four hundred hours of supervised clinical training in speech pathology as a student in an accredited school, college, or university.

c. Show evidence of completion of not less than nine months’ clinical experience under the supervision of a licensed speech pathologist following the receipt of the master’s degree.

2. For a license as an audiologist:

a. Possess a master’s degree from an accredited school, college, or university with a major in audiology.

b. Show evidence of completion of not less than four hundred hours of supervised clinical training in audiology as a student in an accredited school, college, or university.

c. Show evidence of completion of not less than nine months’ clinical experience under the supervision of a licensed audiologist following the receipt of the master’s degree.

d. In lieu of paragraphs “a” through “c”, hold a doctoral degree in audiology from an accredited school, college, or university which incorporates the academic coursework and the minimum hours of supervised training required by rules adopted by the board.

3. Pass an examination as determined by the board in rule.

[2008 Acts, ch 1088, §73](#)

Referred to in [§154F.2](#), [154F.4](#), [154F.5](#)

154F.4 Waiver of examination requirement.

The examinations required in [section 154F.3, subsection 3](#), may be waived by the board for holders by examination of licenses or certificates from states whose requirements are substantially equivalent to those of [this chapter](#).

[2008 Acts, ch 1088, §74](#)

154F.5 Temporary clinical license — fee.

Any person who has fulfilled all of the requirements for licensure under [this chapter](#), except for having completed the nine months’ clinical experience requirement as provided in [section 154F.3, subsection 1 or 2](#), may apply to the board for a temporary clinical license. The license shall be designated “temporary clinical license in speech pathology” or “temporary clinical license in audiology” and shall authorize the licensee to practice speech pathology or audiology under the supervision of a licensed speech pathologist or licensed audiologist,

as appropriate. The license shall be valid for one year and may be renewed at the discretion of the board. The fee for a temporary clinical license shall be set by the board to cover the administrative costs of issuing the license, and if renewed, a renewal fee as set by the board shall be required. A temporary clinical license shall be issued only upon evidence satisfactory to the board that the applicant will be supervised by a person licensed as a speech pathologist or audiologist, as appropriate.

[2008 Acts, ch 1088, §75](#)

154F.6 Temporary permit.

The board may, at its discretion, issue a temporary permit to a nonresident authorizing the permittee to practice speech pathology or audiology in this state for a period not to exceed three months whenever, in the opinion of the board, a need exists and the permittee, in the opinion of the board, possesses the necessary qualifications which shall be substantially equivalent to those required for licensure by [this chapter](#).

[2008 Acts, ch 1088, §76](#)