

STATEMENT OF EMERGENCY

201 KAR 17:005E

Pursuant to KRS 13A.190(1)(a)2., KRS 334A.055, and KRS 334A.188. SECTION 3.B.1, this new emergency administrative regulation is being promulgated to comply with the adoption of 2026 HB 657 which requires the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (the "Board") to require a national and state criminal background investigation for every applicant seeking an initial license issued by the Board to engage in the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology, and applicants seeking to reinstate a license. The criminal background investigation shall be by means of a fingerprint check by the Department of Kentucky State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation. The effective date of KRS 334A.055 requires that this emergency amendment be promulgated to ensure there is no delay in processing applications upon the effective date of the Act.

As a result, this new emergency administrative regulation—and the identical new ordinary regulation being concomitantly filed—are aligned with this statutory change to undergird the other emergency and ordinary regulations package being filed by the Board to offset the potential delay in processing licensure applications—whereby the Board would be unable to process applications and collect fees in accordance with the terms of the statute—and therefore "[p]revent an imminent loss of federal or state funds" pursuant to KRS 13A.190(1)(a)2. This new emergency administrative regulation is temporary and will be replaced by a new ordinary administrative regulation as provided by KRS 13A.190. The new ordinary regulation will be filed with this new emergency regulation and will be identical.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Adkins".

Margaret Adkins, Au.D., CCC-A, Board Chair
Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional Counselors
Dated: July 15, 2026

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Beshear".

Andy Beshear, Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky
Dated: July 15, 2026

1 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

2 KENTUCKY BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

3 (New Emergency Administrative Regulation)

4 201 KAR 17:005E. Definitions and abbreviations for 201 KAR Chapter 17.

5 RELATES TO: KRS 334A.010–334A.990

6 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 334A.080(3)

7 NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 334A.080(3) requires the board to
8 promulgate administrative regulations necessary to carry out and enforce the provisions of KRS
9 334A.010 to 334A.990. This administrative regulation establishes the definitions and
10 abbreviations used in 201 KAR Chapter 17.

11 Section 1. Definitions. The following definitions and abbreviations used in these administrative
12 regulations are defined as follows:

13 (1) "Academic courses offered by an accredited postsecondary institution" means:

14 (a) A speech-language pathology or audiology course, designated by a speech-language
15 pathology or audiology title or content; or

16 (b) An academic course, relevant to speech-language pathology or audiology.

17 (2) "Approved" means recognized by the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and
18 Audiology.

- 1 (3) "AUD" means audiologist.
- 2 (4) "Board administrator" means the primary staff assigned to provide administrative services to
3 the Board.
- 4 (5) "CEU" means continuing education unit of sixty (60) minutes of participation in continuing
5 educational experiences, excluding breaks.
- 6 (6) "Chair" means the chair or vice-chair of the board.
- 7 (7) "Charge" means a specific allegation contained in a formal complaint, as established in
8 subsection (5) of this section, issued by the board alleging a violation of a specified provision of
9 KRS Chapter 334A, the administrative regulations promulgated thereunder, or any other state or
10 federal statute or regulation relating to the practice of speech-language pathology and audiology
11 over which the board has enforcement authority.
- 12 (8) "Complaint" means a written allegation of misconduct by a credentialed individual or other
13 person which might constitute a violation of KRS Chapter 334A, the administrative regulations
14 promulgated thereunder, or any other state or federal statute or regulation.
- 15 (9) "Complaint screening committee" means a committee consisting of three (3) persons appointed
16 by the chair of the board to review complaints, investigative reports, and to participate in informal
17 proceedings to resolve a formal complaint.
- 18 (10) "Formal complaint" means a formal administrative pleading authorized by the board which
19 sets forth charges against a licensed individual or other person and commences a formal
20 disciplinary proceeding pursuant to KRS Chapter 13B or requests the court to take criminal or civil
21 action.
- 22 (11) "Informal proceedings" means the proceedings instituted at a stage of the disciplinary process
23 with the intent of reaching a dispensation of any matter without further recourse to formal

disciplinary procedures under KRS Chapter 13B.

(12) "Interim AUD" means interim audiologist.

(13) "Interim SLP" means interim speech-language pathologist.

(14) "Interim SLP-A" means interim speech-language pathology assistant.

(12) "Investigator" means an individual designated by the board to assist the board in the investigation of a complaint or an investigator employed by the Attorney General.

(15) "Program" means an organized learning experience:

(a) Planned and evaluated to meet stated behavioral objectives;

(b) Presented in one (1) session or a series; and

(c) Conducted and documented by an identified provider of discipline.

(16) "Provider" means an organization approved by the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology for providing a continuing education program.

(17) "Related" means having content that is not directly linked to the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology, but expands or augments clinical practice.

(18) "Relevant" means having content applicable to the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology.

(19) "SLP" means speech-language pathologist.

(20) "SLP-A" means speech-language pathology assistant.

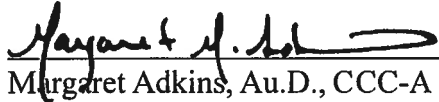
(21) "Temporary AUD" means temporary audiologist.

(22) "Temporary SLP" means temporary speech-language pathologist.

(23) "Temporary SLP-A" means temporary speech-language pathology assistant.

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APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Adkins", is written over a horizontal line.

Margaret Adkins, Au.D., CCC-A

Board Chair

Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Date: July 15, 2026

AFFIDAVIT OF EMERGENCY STATEMENT BY BOARD CHAIR

Comes the Affiant, Margaret Adkins, Au.D, CCC-A, and after first being duly sworn, states the following:

1. I am Chair of the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.
2. The 2026 General Assembly enacted HB 657 requiring a criminal background investigation by means of a fingerprint check by the Department of Kentucky State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation for all initial applicants for licensure, and applicants for reinstatement, who apply for authorization to engage in the practice of professional counseling, effective on July 15, 2026.
3. The Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology considered these amendments at its May 12, 2026, special meeting and authorized the filing of the accompanying emergency amendment to the administrative regulation prior to the effective date of HB 657 to ensure there is no undue delay in processing applications for initial licensure and reinstatement.
4. Based on a finding that an emergency exists in accordance with KRS 13A.190(1)(a)2., and an imminent deadline for the promulgation of amendments to the administrative regulation required by the passage of HB 657, the attached emergency amendment is being filed to ensure there is no undue delay in processing applications for initial licensure and reinstatement.

Further the Affiant saith naught.


Affiant