



OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION
2016-17A

Amy Hall, Executive Secretary
Board of Examiners for Speech-Language
Pathology and Audiology
3700 N. Classen Blvd., Ste. 248
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

January 7, 2016

Dear Executive Secretary Hall:

This office has received your request for a written Attorney General Opinion regarding agency action that the Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology intends to take regarding a licensed speech-language pathologist in Board case 15-23. The proposed action is to impose a fine of \$100, require payment of a prior unpaid fine of \$42.50, and require proof of completion of 20 hours of continuing education. The action also bars renewal of the license in 2017 without proof of continuing education. The licensee was randomly chosen as part of a continuing education audit program and admitted to not completing continuing education requirements in 2013 and 2014. A prior Board order required completion of the continuing education hours from 2013 and 2014 and payment of a fine of \$42.50. The Board has received neither proof of the continuing education nor payment for that fine.

The Speech Pathology and Audiology Licensing Act, 59 O.S.2011 & Supp.2015, §§ 1601–1622, authorizes the Board to condition renewal of a license on fulfillment of continuing education requirements determined by the Board. 59 O.S.2011, § 1616.1. The Board's rules require completion of twenty hours of continuing education in a two-year period beginning with January 1 of each odd-numbered year. OAC 690:10-3-8(b). The action seeks to enforce this straightforward requirement while allowing the licensee to continue to participate in the profession. The Board may reasonably believe that fines and requiring completion of continuing education will deter future violations.

It is, therefore, the official opinion of the Attorney General that the Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology has adequate support for the conclusion that this action advances the State of Oklahoma's policy to uphold standards of professionalism and ethics in speech-language pathology and audiology.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Scott Pruitt".

E. SCOTT PRUITT
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF OKLAHOMA