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Visit the Office of Special Licensing website at:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/als/slp/index.htm>

Speech & Hearing professionals can renew their licenses online at:

<https://az.gov/app/dhs/splash.xhtml>

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## News and Views For Licensees

### Avoiding Enforcement Actions!

and trepidation.

Enforcement, however, is part and parcel of what it is we do here at the Department of Health Services/Division of Licensing Services. It is an integral and necessary facet of ensuring that MINIMUM standards are met to safeguard the health, safety, and welfare of people receiving services from our licensed providers.

Enforcement at ADHS begins with identification of a statute or rule violation by a licensing office (in your case, the Office of Special Licensing). This can occur through a variety of mechanisms such as the processing of an application for licensure or the investigation of a complaint. The enforcement process starts with an analysis of the facts of a given case. When that analysis finds that a rule or statute has been violated, the licensing of-

**ENFORCEMENT, . . .**  
The very word conjures up anxiety

office takes into consideration the scope and severity of the violation to make a determination on whether the matter is appropriate to refer to the ADHS Enforcement Team.

When a case is referred to the Enforcement Team (ET), the scope and severity of the violation is reviewed and the ET directs the licensing office as to a course of action.

Some violations are automatically referred to the ET for consideration. These including practicing without a license, failure to submit required reports in a timely manner, and any violation that has resulted in or has the potential to result in harm to a consumer.

Throughout the past few years, the Office of Special Licensing (OSL) has been taking a stronger look at statute and rule violations of licensees.

The best way to safeguard yourself from being referred to the Enforcement Team is to know your statutes and rules and pay close attention to the expiration date upon your license!

## Speech and Hearing Professionals Advisory Committee

The Speech and Hearing Professionals Advisory Committee (SHPAC) is an ADHS Director appointed body consisting of 2 Hearing Aid Dispensers, 2 Audiologists, 2 Speech-Language Pathologists, 2 Physicians, 2 Members of the Public, 1 Representative from the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, the ADHS Director or designee. The SHPAC is tasked with quarterly open meetings at which important issues are discussed

and recommendations are made to the Department that are related to licensing, regulatory functions, rules and legislation, complaint investigations, and disciplinary actions.

Agendas and minutes can be found on the OSL website at:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/als/hadis/index.htm>

**FUN FACT:** Thirty-seven percent of children with only minimal hearing loss fail at least one grade!  
~ American Academy of Audiology

## SLPA Rules Update!

Hopefully all interested parties have heard by now that the Arizona Department of Health Services/Office of Special Licensing has begun to issue licenses to Speech Language Pathology Assistants (SLPA)!

The promulgation of the correlating rule package is moving right along with the October filing of the Notice of Final Rulemaking. The next step along the way is the review and approval of the Governor's Regulatory Review Council which is slated for sometime in December, after which it will be codified in the Arizona Administrative Code.

The SLPA licensing application can be downloaded from the ADHS/Office of Special Licensing website at: <http://www.azdhs.gov/als/slp/index.htm>

An application can also be mailed or faxed to you by calling the Office of Special Licensing at (602) 364-2079. All inquiries related to the rules or the application process should be directed to the Office of Special Licensing.



## What's Up With Midwifery?

The Office of Special Licensing (OSL) continues to offer midwifery examinations twice per year. Recently the OSL has been revising the state jurisprudence (rules and statutes) exam.



The first administration of the new exam will be in March of 2010.

There are several things our current Licensed Midwives should

keep in mind in order to form a more perfect union with the Office of Special Licensing:

Turn in quarterly reports as mandated by state law (due the 15th of the month following the end of the quarter). This will prevent you from being referred for enforcement! Violation of this law is a class 3 misdemeanor!

Remember to apply for renewal of your license 30 to 60 days before it expires!

Do not practice without a current license!

Do not take on VBAC patients!

### FUN FACT:

Americans could save \$13 billion to \$20 billion annually in health care costs by developing a network of midwifery care providers, demedicalizing childbirth, and encouraging breastfeeding. (Frank A. Oski, M.D., professor and director, Department of Pediatrics, John Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore)



## Q & A

This column is a forum to get the word out about frequently asked questions or to directly respond to questions submitted by our readers!

**Q:** How soon after I apply for a new license can I begin to provide services?

**A:** State law requires you to have your license in hand before you begin to provide services. This includes people completing a clinical fellowship. It is a class 3 misdemeanor to provide services without a license and an application is not the same thing as a license.

**Q:** What happens if my license expires and I

miss the 30 day grace period?

**A:** You will have to apply for an initial license (which costs \$200) and you may be referred to enforcement, which usually results in an additional fine. You will also have to turn in your continuing education, so make a note and track your expiration date!

**Q:** What are the supervision requirements of SLPAs?

**A:** The minimum requirements for SLPA supervision are found in Arizona Revised Statute [36-1940.04](#).

HOWEVER, the MOST IMPORTANT aspect of the law is found in the lead-in sentence which reads: The supervising SLPA shall ensure that the amount and type of supervision and direction provided to a speech-language pathology assistant is consistent with the individual's skills and experience, the needs of the patient, client or student served, the setting in which services are provided and the tasks assigned.

Please submit your questions directly to the OSL at:

[Rohn.Geppert@azdhs.gov](mailto:Rohn.Geppert@azdhs.gov)

## Budget Update!

It's been the media darling since July so this should not be new information for folks, . . .

Arizona has passed a budget bill that is allowing ADHS to raise licensing fees!

The good news is that it will not affect the fees collected by the Office of Special Licensing (OSL).

The application and licensing fees paid by speech and hearing professionals goes into a special fund established under ARS 36-1903 out of which an allocation is made to ADHS.

The licensing program for our Midwives is funded partially from the state general fund and partially from an allocation from a block grant awarded to the Bureau of Women's and Children's

Health.

The budget bill ALSO included a moratorium on all rule making which will expire at the end of the fiscal year which will be July of 2010.

This means our plan to update the HAD/AUD/SLP rules and the midwifery rules will be postponed until July of 2010.

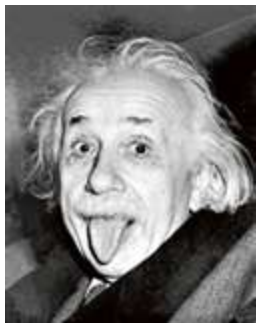
. . . And so it goes.



*"The only way to strengthen one's intellect is to make up one's mind about nothing - to let the mind be a thoroughfare for all thoughts."*

John Keats

## H1N1



*"Imagination is more important than knowledge!"*

Albert Einstein

H1N1 has been in the news for several months with varying degrees of accurate information. Here is the latest and greatest you should keep in mind in order to protect yourself as well as the people you serve:

Symptoms of infection with 2009 H1N1 influenza are generally the same as for seasonal influenza: fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache, body aches (muscle aches or joint pain), chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea

and vomiting associated with 2009 H1N1 flu. Not everyone who has flu will have a fever.

If you are sick, stay home and keep away from others as much as possible. This is to keep from making others sick. If you have flu, you should [stay at home for at least 24 hours after you](#) no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (have chills, feel very warm, have a flushed appearance, or are sweating). This should be determined without the use of fever-reducing medicines (any medicine that contains ibuprofen or acetaminophen).

The key to preventing infection

is to cover your mouth when sneezing or coughing; frequent and aggressive hand washing; sanitizing your equipment directly after each use; keep sanitizing wipes handy to wipe off table tops after serving each client; and postpone service provision if you become ill or suspect your clients of having flu-like symptoms.

To learn more, please visit the ADHS website at:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/flu/h1n1/providers.htm>

Have a healthy New Year!

## Are You Prepared for an Emergency? Sign Up for OSL Alerts!

Emergency preparedness is something each of us needs to at least **think** about BEFORE the need arises! Being prepared means different things for different people. Please take into consideration the needs of each family member, and come up with a plan that includes a meeting place. This would be critical so that you will know where to come together in the event that telecommunications are adversely affected!

One way that we will communicate with you during an emergency is through our alerting system.

When there is a pressing need to get out information quickly to you, if you are signed up to receive OSL Alerts, you will receive an email describing the issue, circumstance, urgent nature of the alert, and other relevant "just in time" information.

To sign up for the Alerting system simply send an email to [OSL.ALERTS@azdhs.gov](mailto:OSL.ALERTS@azdhs.gov)

**STAY INFORMED SIGN UP TODAY!**

## Dear Readers - A Final Word From Rohno

As always feel free to email me at

[Rohno.Geppert@azdhs.gov](mailto:Rohno.Geppert@azdhs.gov) or you can reach me in the office at (602) 364-2079 Tuesday through Friday and every other Monday!

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