



January 27, 2020

Memorandum

To: Holders of Temporary Permits

From: Angie Smith, Interim Bureau Chief

Bureau of Health Facilities Licensing

Subject: Renewal of Temporary Permits

The Department of Health and Environmental Control (the "Department") is charged with establishing and enforcing standards for licensure of persons who engage in the practice of specializing in hearing aids ("Hearing Aid Specialists"). S.C. Code Ann. § 40-25-30. The Department has promulgated regulations regarding standards for licensure of Hearing Aid Specialists. S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-3.

To promote the health, safety, and wellbeing of citizens served by Hearing Aid Specialists, the Department is clarifying its issuance of Temporary Permits. A "Temporary Permit" is a permit issued while an applicant for licensure trains to become a Hearing Aid Specialist. S.C. Code Ann. § 40-25-20(4). An applicant for a Temporary Permit must meet certain qualifications and must not have previously applied to take the examination prescribed by the Department for licensure. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 40-25-110 and -120; S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-3, § 103. A Temporary Permit entitles the applicant to engage in the fitting and sale of hearing aids under the supervision of a licensed Hearing Aid Specialist for one year. S.C. Code Ann. §44- 25-120; S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-3 § II.C.

If the Temporary Permit holder does not pass both the written and practical examinations within two years from issuance of the Temporary Permit, the Department will only consider renewal of the Temporary Permit if the Temporary Permit holder has applied for, but has not taken the written or Practical Examination due to scheduling conflicts with the available test dates. *Id.* at § 103. If the Temporary Permit holder has either failed to apply to take the tests or has taken the test(s), but failed to pass, the Temporary Permit holder will not be eligible to renew the Temporary Permit. If the Department does not renew an applicant's Temporary Permit, the individual must discontinue the practice of specializing in hearing aids. However, the individual may apply for licensure as a Hearing Aid Specialist upon passing the written and practical examinations prescribed by the Department. See S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-3, § 202.

The Department appreciates your assistance in ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of citizens served by Hearing Aid Specialists. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Charlene Bell at (803) 545-4223.

AS/mrb