

Tennessee Council for Hearing Instrument Specialists



Newsletter



2015

A Regulatory Agency of the State of Tennessee

Fall

665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37243 <http://tn.gov/health> (615) 741-7535 or 1-800-778-4123
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time (except state and federal holidays) Fax: (615) 532-5369

In conjunction with the purpose and goals of the Department of Health, the Mission of the Bureau of Health Licensure and Regulation is to: Monitor, access and enforce health care laws and regulations; Protect, promote and enhance quality health care for all citizens; Continuously strive to meet the needs of our customers in a respectful and caring manner; Provide quality work-life necessary to attract and retain competent, caring employees; Empower our employees to become entrepreneurs in their jobs; Increase awareness and public confidence in our services; and, Utilize our resources efficiently and cost effectively.

2016 Board Meeting Dates

January 22, 2016
9 a.m. CT, Poplar Room

May 13, 2016
9 a.m. CT, Poplar Room

September 23, 2016
9 a.m. CT, Poplar Room



All board meetings will be held at 665 Mainstream Drive,
Nashville TN, unless otherwise noted.

Live Streaming Video

If you would like to see your board “in action” but can’t attend a meeting in person, you can now watch the board meeting on your computer through live streaming video. The link is:

<https://web.nowuseeit.tn.gov/Mediasite/Catalog/Full/98fe21d561e9489487745f0c7da678b221>. After you access the page, go to the board meeting you wish to view and click on that particular link.

Legislative Updates

Council for Licensing Hearing Instrument Specialists Legislative Update - 2015

Public Chapter 154

This act would allow the Commissioner of Health or his designee to have electronic access to medical records in order to facilitate investigations when responding to an immediate threat to public health. Today the Commissioner of Health or his designee already has this authority but must go to the facility to review the medical records.

Public Chapter 94

This act defines “abuse” and “neglect” for purposes of placing a person on the registry of persons who have abused, neglected, or misappropriated the property of vulnerable individuals specifically within the statutes that govern the Dept. of Health. It does not impact the definitions within the statutes that govern the Dept. of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities nor the Dept. of Human Services. It also increases the time within which placement on the registry may be appealed from 30 to 60 days.

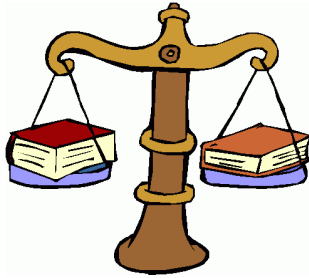
Public Chapter 502

This act allows the Joint Government Operations Committee (the legislative committee that reviews all rules) to stay a rule up to 75 days instead of 60 days. Present law authorizes the Joint Government Operations Committee to consider the following factors when reviewing rules: authority, clarity, consistency, justification, necessity and reference. This act adds arbitrariness and capriciousness as two new considerations.

Public Chapter 268

This act makes disclosures of protected healthcare information permissible in medical malpractice lawsuits.

RULE AMENDMENTS



Rule 1370-02-.06(3)(a)(ii) and (ii) concerning the examination fee has been deleted. The fee is now paid directly to the company who provides the examination.

Council Operations Fee

Reminder

Please remember to pay the Council Operations Fee, a non-refundable fee to be paid by each hearing instrument specialist which is still in effect. This fee shall be paid by the last day in the licensee's birth month in the non-renewal year. This fee shall expire at midnight on December 31, 2016.

Council for Hearing Instrument Specialists Website

You may download a copy of the rules, applications and forms, board member list, board meeting schedule, policy statements, and other pertinent information at the board's web site: <http://tn.gov/health/topic/HIS-board>



Have you moved/changed your name?

Must be reported in writing or by e-mail to the board's office within 30 days! Please include the following:

- your name and license number;
- your profession;
- your old address and phone number;

- your new address and phone number, e-mail address, and/or your fax number; and your signature!
- If your name has changed due to marriage or divorce, you must send a copy of the document that made the change in status.

Keeping the board's administrative staff up to date on your location facilitates the timely notification to you of important information such as your application for licensure renewal and important statutory and rule changes.

A form for the change of address/name can be found at:

<http://tn.gov/health/article/HIS-applications>

You may fax your change to the board's administrative office at (615) 532-5369 or by mail at: 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37243.

Continuing Education Requirements

Basic Requirements:

Continuing Education

1. Each licensee registered with the Council is required to successfully complete twenty (20) hours of continuing education during the two (2) calendar years (January 1 - December 31) that precede the licensure renewal year.

2. Two (2) hours of the twenty (20) hour requirement shall pertain to Tennessee statutes and rules concerning hearing instrument specialists.

(b) Calibration Certificates - Each licensee registered with the Council is required to retain calibration of equipment certificates for each audiometer used at his/her place of business during the calendar year.

(c) Bills of Sale - Each licensee registered with the Council is required to retain copies of bills of sale for each hearing aid sold at his/her place of business during the calendar year.

Policy Statements

Continuing Education

The Tennessee Council for Licensing Hearing Instrument Specialists requires each licensee to successfully complete twenty (20) hours of continuing education during the two (2) calendar years (January 1 – December 31) that precede the licensure renewal year. Two (2) of the twenty (20) hour requirement shall pertain to Tennessee statutes and rules concerning hearing instrument specialists.

In the event a licensee is found to be deficient in the number of required continuing education (CE) hours for a particular year, that person will be required to pay a one-time civil

penalty of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each hour deficient and make up the deficient hours.

The civil penalty must be paid, and all deficient CE hours must be taken and documented by the Board, within ninety (90) days after Department staff mails the licensee a notice of deficiency.

Notice of discipline for CE deficiency will be assessed by the Department via Agreed Citation, which will detail the licensee's rights and obligations under the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, T.C.A. §§ 4-5-301, et seq. The discipline assessed in accordance with this continuing education policy constitutes formal discipline against a practitioner's license and as such will be reported to the disciplinary data bank and will be noted on the practitioner's licensure profile.

If such licensee fails to pay the civil penalty and demonstrate that he or she has cured the CE deficiency within the calendar year in which he receives notification, the Department will file a licensure complaint and the licensee will be prosecuted in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, T.C.A. §§ 4-5-301, et seq.

Lapsed License

The Tennessee Council for Hearing Instrument Specialists recognizes that a licensee may unintentionally allow his or her license to expire. State statute prohibits a licensee from working as a Hearing Instrument Specialist unless he or she has an active license. Thus, the Council has adopted the following procedures for reinstatement of an expired license:

1. Upon recognition that his or her license has expired, the licensee must stop practicing immediately and contact the Council's administrative office and request a reinstatement application.
2. The licensee must complete the reinstatement in its entirety along with a detailed work history from the date the license expired. The application must be signed, notarized, and returned to the Council's administrative office along with the applicable fee and proof of documentation of continuing education requirements for the years you were out.
3. Once the completed reinstatement application and all required documentation is received, the council administrator may immediately reinstate the license only if the license has been in an expired status for a period of three (3) months or less.
4. If the reinstatement application received indicates in the work history that the individual has worked more than three (3) months on an expired license, the license will not be issued until the licensee has paid a penalty in the amount of \$100.00 for each month worked in excess of the three (3) months from the expiration date of the license.

Discipline for lapsed licenses will now be reportable to the national databanks as well as the Department's Disciplinary Action report and will be noted on the practitioner's licensure profile.

Electronic Notification for Licensed Health Professionals

NOTICE TO ALL LICENSED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS – ELECTRONIC NOTICE OPTION

On January 1, 2013, a new law became effective requiring all Tennessee health professional boards to provide electronic notices to healthcare professionals they license. The law gives healthcare professionals the option of being notified electronically of the following: (1) Renewals of license, certification or registration; (2) Any fee increases; (3) Any changes in state law that impact the license holder; and (4) Any board meeting where changes in rules or fees are on the agenda. If a healthcare professional "opts in", the Department of Health will also be able to alert him or her of critical public health matters impacting Tennessee. Please visit apps.tn.gov/hhrs/begin.jsp and complete the registration process to opt in. Upon receipt of a current email address, those who opt in will begin to receive ALL notices electronically rather than through the United States mail. Please note opting in means license renewal notification will be delivered electronically approximately 45 days in advance of the expiration date. The electronic notice will direct the licensee to the appropriate Web page to renew. For professions that do not permit licensees to renew their licenses online, a paper renewal will continue to be provided. For more information, contact the Health Professional Boards office at 615-741-5735 or toll-free at 1-800-778-4123.

Renew Your License Online



Practitioners may access the online service at <https://apps.tn.gov/hhrs/> to renew their licenses up to 70 days prior to the expiration date.

Click the "Licensing Renewal" link where you can renew your license and update your professional license information. *Licensees are responsible for renewing their licenses on time and keeping the Board apprised of current information. It is a violation of the law and of the Board's rules to practice on an expired license.*

-Step 1: Login - Select our board and your profession and enter your license number.

-Step 2: Update your Information - Change your home and/or office address.

-Step 3: Enter your renewal information - Answer all necessary questions, as if you were completing your hard-copy form.

-Step 4: Payment - Enter your credit card information through the secure site and choose "submit".

If you have met all of the criteria necessary, your renewal certificate will be mailed to you in approximately one week. Updated license information will be available on the department's web site within two business days.

Retirement of License

If you are not practicing in Tennessee and do not wish to renew your license, it is suggested you retire your license rather than have it fall into failed to renew status. A retirement form may be obtained at our website at:

<http://tn.gov/health/article/HIS-applications>

If you do not have access to the internet, you may request a retirement form be mailed to you.



OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

The Office of Investigations is responsible for receiving and processing all complaints for the licensure boards. To file a complaint, please contact the Office of Investigations at 1-800-852-2187 or visit our website where you may download and print out the complaint form.

To Contact This Board Call:

(615) 741-5735 local or (800) 778-4123 nationwide
or write to:

Tennessee Council for Hearing Instrument Specialists
665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

BOARD MEMBERS

Thomas A. Stewart
Randy Allen Williams
Fredrick Rayne, MD
Jerry L. Hall
Lordy Dell Smith, Consumer

BOARD STAFF

Charles Custer
Board Administrator

Jordan Bonner, III
Licensing Technician

Theodora (Teddy) Wilkins
Administrative Director