ALABAMA BOARD OF HEARING INSTRUMENT DEALERS
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

CHAPTER 445-X-1
HEARING INSTRUMENT DEALERS

445-X-1-.03 Licensing And Administration.

(1) Qualifications for Licensure.

(a) In addition to meeting all other requirements of the licensure examination and of the rules, the applicant shall complete an application, on forms prescribed by the board, and shall meet the following requirements:

1. Be a minimum of 19 years of age.

2. Be of good moral character.

3. Have a minimum of a high school diploma or a GED.

4. Be free of any contagious or infectious disease.

5. Be a citizen or have status as a legal alien.

(2) Types of License.

(a) A hearing aid dispenser license shall be effective for a period beginning January 1, or from date of issue, and ending January 30 on the succeeding year.

(b) Apprentice Permit. Any individual meeting requirements specified in 445-X-1-.03 and has completed the International Institute for Hearing instrument Studies distance learning program may apply to the board for an apprentice permit.

1. An apprentice permit shall be effective for a period of one year from date of issue. An apprentice permit may be renewed for an additional year, provided that the permit holder has sat and failed the hearing aid specialist’s examination during the first initial permit period. An applicant may not be issued a second permit certificate within a five-year period following the expiration date of the initial permit.

2. Any individual applying for an apprentice permit shall provide proof of sponsorship by an active, licensed Alabama hearing aid dispenser with an established business address, and proof of completion of the International Institute for Hearing Instrument Studies (IIHIS) Distance learning program.

(i) The sponsor shall have been licensed for a minimum of one year.

(ii) A licensed hearing aid dispenser shall not sponsor more than 4 apprentices at any given time.

The sponsor shall provide guidance and supervision to adequately prepare an apprentice permitted individual to perform as a fully licensed hearing aid dispenser or designated hearing aid specialist. The sponsor shall provide direct supervision and immediate observation of the apprentice permeate to fit, select, dispense, or service a hearing instrument. After completion of IIHIS Distance Learning program and practical instructions, the apprentice may perform the functions of a hearing aid specialist, but only under the direct supervision and physical observation of a licensed hearing aid dispenser, or hearing aid specialist when specifically designated by the hearing aid dispenser. The hearing aid dispenser or designated hearing aid specialist shall review and give final approval to work performed by the apprentice including all audiometric results. The hearing aid dispenser or designated hearing aid specialist must review and approve all ear impressions, and orders for hearing aids and earmolds before submission to the manufacturer. The hearing aid dispenser or designated hearing aid specialist shall be physically present at the time the hearing aid(s) is delivered to the client.

(iii) The sponsor shall be responsible for all sales and service of the apprentice permeate.

(3) Withdrawal of Sponsorship.

(a) The sponsor may withdraw from the agreement upon providing a maximum of 10 days written notification to the apprentice and to the board. At that time the sponsor shall surrender the apprentice permit to the board.

(b) It shall be the apprentice permittee's responsibility to provide proof of sponsorship by another qualified licensee. The board shall forward the apprentice permit to the new sponsor. Failure to provide proof of sponsorship shall result in suspension of the apprentice permit.

(c) The apprentice permit holder may request transfer to another sponsor, upon written notification to the sponsor and to the board, and upon verification from the sponsor.

(4) All legal requirements which apply to licensees shall apply with equal force to apprentice permits and violation of any

portion of these rules subjects apprentice permit holders to the same disciplinary action as licensees.

(5) Renewal of Licenses.

(a) The board shall renew an active license for each licensee who has completed the appropriate application and paid the licensure fee.

(b) After expiration of the 30-day grace period, the board may renew licenses upon payment of a reinstatement fee plus the regular renewal fee.

(c) A license may be renewed within two years of the expiration date upon payment of a reinstatement fee plus the regular renewal fee. Within the two-year renewal period, the person shall not be required to submit to any examination as a condition for renewal.

(d) Any active license which is not renewed by the end of the 30-day grace period shall become null and void, and the privilege of fitting and selling hearing instruments in Alabama becomes invalid.

(e) All licensees shall provide a current permanent business street address upon application for renewal. The address will be printed on the license. The license shall be valid only if the business street address is correct or the licensee has notified the board of any change of address within 15 days of such change.

(f) Application for renewal of a hearing aid dispenser or hearing aid specialist license or for an apprentice permit shall be denied so long as any suspension or revocation is imposed by the board, such suspension or revocation has been appealed to any court, and such suspension or revocation remains in litigation.

(6) Licensure Suspension.

(a) Any license may be suspended for violation of these rules or Alabama hearing instrument laws. A suspension of license will be contingent on proceeds in 445-X-1-.08 and with consideration of the following conditions:

1. When the board has reason to believe the operation of a hearing aid dispenser or hearing aid specialist is in violation of the law or rules.

2. When the board has reason to believe the hearing aid dispenser or hearing aid specialist or apprentice is not making specific plans or efforts to comply with the law or these rules.

3. A license may be suspended for a period not to exceed one year at which time the license will be reinstated or revoked based on action of the board.

(7) Licensure Fees.

(a) All fees shall be made payable to the Board of Hearing Instrument Dealers. Licensure fees shall not be refunded.

1. Initial application fee of two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00) is required to apply for a license with the Board.

2. Initial licensure or renewal fee is two hundred dollars ($200) for a hearing aid specialist and two hundred fifty dollars ($250) for a hearing aid dispenser.

3. Examination fee is four hundred dollars ($400).

4. Late fee (during grace period) is fifty dollars ($50) in addition to the license fee.

5. Apprentice permit fee is one hundred twenty-five dollars ($125.00).

6. Apprentice permit renewal fee is one hundred twenty-five dollars ($125.00).

7. Duplicate license fee is twenty-five ($25.00) per additional license.

8. Replacement License Fee, if original is lost or the office moves within the calendar year is twenty-five ($25).

9. Verification Fee of twenty-five ($25.00) to verify certificates of any licensed individual.

10. Reinstatement fee of two hundred ($200) is required for reinstatement of any license approved for reinstatement that is beyond the allowed grace period.

11. Late filing fee of twenty-five (25.00) for a business statement of compliance.

12. Mail list fee of twenty-five (25.00) for a list of licenses issued by the Board.

(8) Licensing.

(a) Issuance of License. The license shall be issued by the board. It shall set forth the name and business address of the dispenser, fitter, or apprentice.

1. A duplicate license shall be displayed at each business location when the licensee is operating from more than one business address.

2. Any change of address, place of business, or sponsor shall be submitted in writing to the board within 30 days after the change has occurred. Replacement certificates shall be issued by the board upon the payment of the appropriate fee.

(b) Basis for denial of license.

1. The board shall consider the following to be sufficient reason to deny a license to any person making application for or renewal of a hearing aid dispenser, or hearing aid specialist license:

(i) Falsification of any information or record required in the application for license.

(ii) Change of personal name, corporate name, charter, entity or partnership name of composition to avoid the imposition of liens or court action.

(iii) Conviction of a felony in any state for physical, mental or financial abuse of consumers or the general public within the past five years.

(iv) Revocation of a hearing aid dispenser, or hearing aid specialist license within the last five years by administrative or court action in the state of Alabama.

(v) Conviction of fraud in any state or in any federal jurisdiction within the past five years.

(vi) Failure to comply with 445-X-1-.03(3).

2. The board reserves the right to make inquiries of any other person or agency to determine whether the above reasons for denial exist.

Author: Hearing Instrument Dealers Board
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