

What is a speech-language pathology assistant?

A licensed SLP may delegate some duties to an assistant.

The assistant must meet certain educational requirements and the SLP supervisor is responsible for maintaining those records.

State law requires the clinic to notify you in writing if it is using an assistant's services before those services begin.

An assistant may **not** perform diagnostic tests, interpret test results, or write or develop a client's individualized treatment plan.

How do I file a complaint?

Contact the Health Occupations Program at the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-3729 or 1-800-657-3837 to file a complaint.

For speech-language pathologists who work in the schools, contact the Minnesota Department of Education to file a complaint.

Minnesota Department of Health

Health Occupations Program

P.O. Box 64882

St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0882

Complaints: 651-201-3729

Toll free: 1-800-657-3837

Credentials: 651-201-3726

TTY: 651-201-5797

Minnesota Relay Service:
1-800-627-3529

Web:

www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpsc/hop/slpa/

E-mail:

Health.HOP@state.mn.us

If you require this document in another format, such as large print, Braille or cassette tape, call 651-201-3731.



*Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all
Minnesotans*

Speech-Language Pathology: Assuring Competent Care from a Qualified Speech-Language Pathologist

A consumer guide to information and rights protected by law

- Services provided by speech-language pathologists
- Services provided by speech-language pathology assistants
- Qualifications and titles of licensed speech-language pathologist
- Your right to ethical care
- Filing a complaint

What is a speech-language pathologist?

A speech-language pathologist (SLP) is a licensed health care practitioner educated to identify, assess, interpret, diagnose, habilitate, rehabilitate, evaluate and treat children and adults with speech, language, and swallowing problems. A licensed SLP can:

- Help people with articulation disorders learn proper production of speech sounds
- Help people who stutter speak more fluently
- Assist people with voice disorders to improve voice
- Help people with language learning difficulties, aphasia (loss of talking, listening, reading, and/or writing) or other cognitive-communication losses to develop or recover skills
- Assist people who have difficulty swallowing
- Evaluate, select and develop augmentative and alternative communication systems for people with severe speech problems

- Enhance everyday communication skills such as pitch, projection, accent and non-verbal communication
- Provide audiometric screening for the purpose of speech-language evaluation and identify possible hearing disorders

How do I know if a speech-language pathologist is qualified?

In Minnesota, a speech-language pathologist must:

- Be licensed to practice by the Minnesota Department of Health
- Be licensed to practice by the Minnesota Department of Education if employed by a Minnesota school system
- Have a master's or doctoral degree
- Have supervised graduate or doctoral experience
- Have a qualifying score on a national exam
- Meet continuing education requirements

What are the titles used by licensed speech-language pathologists?

Only licensed speech-language pathologists may use the following titles:

- Speech-language pathologist, S, SP or SLP
- Speech therapist
- Language therapist
- Voice therapist
- Voice pathologist

What is ethical care?

A speech-language pathologist must **not**:

- Engage in negligent or incompetent practice
- Perform services for a client who has no possibility of benefiting from the service
- Fail to refer a client for medical evaluation or other medical care when appropriate
- Engage in false or misleading advertising