

Effective April 22, 2006



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

April 19, 2006

Ms. Carreen Caughlan Pederson  
[REDACTED]

RE: MDH File Number AJA-060028

Dear Ms. Caughlan Pederson:

I have determined that future audiologist license renewals or applications will be denied. Based on my review of the facts and law in this matter, I have determined that you failed to respond to a written request from the department within 30 days, as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 148.5195, subdivision 3(2) and failed to pay the required surcharge fee as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 148.5194, subdivision 7. This is a ground for denying renewal of your license, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 148.5195, subdivision 4(1).

This decision will be made final and effective 30 days from the date it is received by you. You have the right to challenge this decision in a contested-case hearing provided under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 14. A request for a hearing must be made in writing and include specific grounds for challenging the department's decision. If you wish to request a hearing, please send, deliver, or fax a written hearing request, within 30 days of your receipt of this letter, to:

Susan Winkelmann, Investigations and Enforcement Manager  
Minnesota Department of Health  
85 East Seventh Place, Suite 300  
PO Box 64882  
Saint Paul, MN 55164-0882  
Fax: 651/201-3839

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Susan Winkelmann at 651/201-3722.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David J. Giese".

David J. Giese, Director  
Division of Compliance Monitoring

cc: Tom Hiendlmayr, Director of the Health Occupations Program  
Susan Winkelmann, Manager, Investigations and Enforcement Unit

**HEALTH OCCUPATIONS PROGRAM  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**A Determination In the Matter of  
Carreen Caughlan Pederson  
Audiologist**

**AUTHORITY**

1. Effective August 1, 2003, Minnesota Statutes, section 148.513, subdivision 1, required a person to be licensed as a speech-language pathologist or audiologist pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections 148.511 to 148.5198, in order to engage in practice.
2. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 148.5195, subdivision 3(2), failure to respond within 30 days to a written request from the department sent via certified mail, is a ground for disciplinary action.
3. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 148.5194, subdivision 7, effective November 1, 2005, all audiologists are required to pay a prorated surcharge fee.
4. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 148.5195, subdivision 4(1), authorizes the Commissioner of Health to refuse to grant or renew licensure if there is a violation of one of the requirements in Minnesota Statutes, section 148.511, et. seq.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Carreen Caughlan Pederson (hereinafter "Practitioner") was first registered as an Audiologist on February 12, 1997. Practitioner renewed her registration/license every year. Her license expired on January 31, 2006.
2. By letter dated August 29, 2005, Credentialing staff notified Practitioner that she was required to remit a prorated surcharge fee in the amount of \$29 by November 1, 2005, and that failure to pay the surcharge fee might result in the suspension of her license.
3. By letter dated November 18, 2005, Credentialing staff notified Practitioner the surcharge fee, which was due by November 1, 2005, had not been received. Practitioner was provided with a copy of the August 29, 2005, letter, asked to remit the surcharge fee by December 17, 2005, and informed that failure to do so would result in the suspension of her license.
4. By letter dated December 21, 2005, Credentialing staff notified Practitioner the surcharge

fee, due November 1, 2005, had not yet been received. Copies of the August 29<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>, letters were enclosed, and Practitioner was asked to submit the required surcharge fee by January 23, 2006. Practitioner was notified that failure to do so would result in discipline, "including additional penalties and or condition, suspension or revocation of your license to practice Audiology in Minnesota." [sic] This letter was sent to Practitioner via certified mail, receipt number 7000 1670 0005 7582 5305, and Practitioner signed for it on December 24, 2005. On February 13, 2006, the Department received a Notification of Intention NOT to Renew from Practitioner. To date, the Practitioner has not paid the \$29.00 prorated surcharge fee.

### **CONCLUSION**

Practitioner failed to respond within 30 days to a written request from the department sent via certified mail, and failed to pay the required surcharge fee pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections 148.5195, subdivision 3(2) and 148.5194, subdivision 7, which are grounds for disciplinary action.

### **DETERMINATION**

Practitioner's Audiologist future license renewal or application will be denied until such time as she submits payment of the required prorated surcharge fee of \$29.00.