

**IN THE MATTER OF
JULIA KUSTUSCH, SLP
License Number 07812**

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**BEFORE THE MARYLAND
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR
AUDIOLOGISTS, HEARING
AID DISPENSERS & SPEECH-
LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS**

CONSENT ORDER

On or about December 31, 2019 the Maryland Board of Examiners for Audiologists, Hearing Aid Dispensers and Speech-Language Pathologists (the “Board”), conducted an audit of the Continuing Education Units (CEUs) of Speech Language Pathologist licenses due for renewal in 2020. The audit of the CEUs for Julia Kustusich, SLP (the “Respondent”), License Number 07812, determined that the Respondent did not provide documentation of the thirty (30) CEUs required for license renewal within the renewal period ending December 31, 2019.

On February 20, 2020, the Board voted to offer a Pre-Charge Consent Order of Reprimand and Fine to the Respondent, in lieu of issuing Charges for violations of the Maryland Audiology, Hearing Aid Dispensing, and Speech-Language Pathology Act (the “Act”), Maryland Health Occupations Code, Annotated (“Health Occ.”), 2-101 *et seq.* and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), Chapter 10, Subchapter 41.

As a result of that offer, the Respondent and the Board agreed to the following Consent Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Board finds that:

1. At all relevant times, the Respondent was licensed to practice as a speech-language pathologist in the State of Maryland, license number 07812.

2. On or about December 31, 2019, the Board conducted an audit of documentation of CEUs of licensees due for renewal in 2020, pursuant to COMAR 10.41.03.06(E).

3. The audit findings showed that the Respondent failed to provide documentation demonstrating that she had completed 30 CEUs within the renewal cycle, pursuant to COMAR 10.41.03.06 D.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, the Board concludes that the Respondent violated the following provisions under the Act and COMAR:

Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. Art.:

§ 2-308(c)—*Applications for renewal*. Before the license expires, the licensee periodically may renew it for an additional term, if the licensee:

(3) Submits to the Board:

(ii) Evidence of compliance with any continuing education requirement set under this section for license renewal...

COMAR 10.41.03.06 A(1) provides that “[w]ithin the 2-year renewal period immediately preceding the licensee’s application for renewal, the licensee shall earn 30 continuing education units (CEUs)...”

COMAR 10.41.03.06 B(2) provides that “[a] speech-language pathologist shall complete the required CEUs within the 2-year period ending December 31 of the year preceding the renewal year.”

COMAR 10.41.03.06 D provides that “[f]ailure to meet continuing education requirements or failure to substantiate CEUs submitted upon request of the Board may result in suspension, revocation, or denial of licensure or other disciplinary action by the Board.”

The Board also concludes that, by failing to document completion of the required continuing education requirements under the Act and the Board’s regulations, the Respondent

violated Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 2-314(12). Specifically:

§ 2-314 Subject to the hearing provisions of § 2-315 of this subtitle, the Board, may deny a license or limited license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee or holder of a limited license, place any licensee or holder of a limited license on probation, or suspend or revoke a license or limited license if the applicant, licensee, or holder:

(12) Violates any provision of this title.

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, it is hereby:

ORDERED that the license of the Respondent to practice as a speech-language pathologist, number 07812 in the State of Maryland is hereby **REPRIMANDED**; and it is further


ORDERED that the Respondent shall pay to the Board a monetary fine of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)** in full by money order or cashier's check made payable to the Board and delivered personally or by certified mail to the Board within **SIXTY (60) DAYS** of the effective date of this Consent Order. Failure to pay this monetary fine in full to the Board within **SIXTY (60) DAYS** of the effective date of this Consent Order shall constitute a violation of this Consent Order; and it is further

ORDERED that if the Respondent violates any of the terms and conditions of this Consent Order, the Board, in its discretion, after notice and an opportunity for an evidentiary hearing before the Board, if there is a genuine dispute as to the material fact(s), or an opportunity for a show cause hearing before the Board, may impose any other disciplinary sanction which the Board may have imposed in this case under Md. Code Ann. Health Occ., § 2-314 including reprimand, probation, suspension, revocation, and/or additional monetary fine, said violation being proven by a preponderance of the evidence; and it is further

ORDERED that the Respondent shall comply with the Maryland Audiology, Hearing Aid Dispensing and Speech-Language Pathology Act, Md. Code Ann. Health Occ., § 2-101 et seq., and all federal and State laws and regulations governing the practice of speech-language pathology in Maryland; and it is further

ORDERED that this is a Final Decision and Order of the Board and, as such, is a **PUBLIC DOCUMENT** pursuant to Maryland Code Annotated, General Provisions Article § 4-101 *et seq.*

4/20/2020
Date



Jennifer Mertes, Au.D, Chair
Maryland Board of Examiners for Audiologists,
Hearing Aid Examiners, and Speech-Language Pathologists

CONSENT

By this Consent, I acknowledge that I have read this Consent Order in its entirety and I hereby admit the truth of the Findings of Fact and accept and submit to the foregoing Consent Order and its conditions. I acknowledge the legal authority and jurisdiction of the Board to initiate these proceedings and to issue and enforce this Consent Order. I acknowledge the validity of this Consent Order as if entered into after the conclusion of a formal evidentiary hearing in which I would have had the right to legal counsel authorized to practice law in Maryland, to confront witnesses, to give testimony, to request subpoenas for witnesses, to call witnesses on my own behalf, to introduce testimony and evidence on my own behalf, and to all other substantive and procedural protections provided by law. I waive these rights, as well as any appeal rights under Maryland Code Annotated, State Government Article § 10-222.

I sign this Consent Order after having an opportunity to consult with an attorney, voluntarily and without reservation, and I fully understand and comprehend the language, meaning, terms, and effect of this Consent Order.

03/20/2020

Date



Julia Kustus, License Number 07812

NOTARIZATION

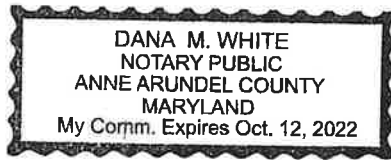
STATE: Maryland

CITY/COUNTY: Anne Arundel

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 20 day of March, 2020, before me, a Notary Public of the State and City/County aforesaid, personally appeared **Julia Kustus** and made oath in due form of law that the foregoing was the voluntary act and deed of **Julia Kustus**.

AS WITNESSETH my hand and Notarial Seal.

SEAL





Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10-12-2022