

BEFORE THE IOWA BOARD OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY & AUDIOLOGY

RE:
Speech Pathologist License of

BRITTANY HODGE (formerly Linden)
License No. 002274
Respondent

CASE NO. 18-0184

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF
CHARGES, SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT, AND FINAL ORDER**

COME NOW the Iowa Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology ("Board") and Brittany Hodge ("Respondent"), 3715 7th Avenue, Sioux City, Iowa 51106, and enter into this Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order ("Order"), pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.10 and 272C.3(4) (2018), and 645 IAC chapter 12. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter of this case pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 17A, 147, 154F, and 272C, and 645 IAC chapter 304.

A. STATEMENT OF CHARGES

COUNT I

1. Respondent is charged pursuant to Iowa Code section 147.55(3) and 645 IAC 304.2(9) with billing for services which were not rendered.

B. FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

2. Respondent holds Iowa license number 002274 to practice as a speech pathologist, which is active and expires on December 31, 2019.

3. Respondent self-reported to the Board that she had previously billed for speech therapy services that were never provided.

C. SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND FINAL ORDER

5. The Board has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of these proceedings.

6. Respondent admits the allegations in the Statement of Charges and acknowledges that the allegations, if proven in a contested case hearing, would constitute grounds for the discipline agreed to in this Order.

7. Execution of this Order constitutes the resolution of a contested case. Respondent has a right to hearing before the Board on the charges, but Respondent waives the right to hearing and all attendant rights, including the right to appeal or seek judicial review of the Board's action, by freely and voluntarily entering into this Order. Once entered, this Order shall have the force and effect of a disciplinary order entered following a contested case hearing.

8. Respondent acknowledges that she has the right to be represented by counsel on this matter.

9. Respondent agrees that the State's counsel may present this Order to the Board and may have *ex parte* communications with the Board while presenting it.

10. This Order is subject to approval by a majority of the full Board. If the Board does not approve this Order, it shall be of no force or effect to either party, and shall not be admissible for any purpose in further proceedings in this matter. If the Board approves this Order, it shall be the full and final resolution of this matter.

11. This Order shall be part of Respondent's permanent record and shall be considered by the Board in determining the nature and severity of any disciplinary action to be imposed in the event of any future violations.

12. Respondent understands the Board is required by federal law to report any adverse action to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

13. This Order, when fully executed, is a public record and is available for inspection and copying in accordance with the requirements of Iowa Code chapters 22 and 272C.

14. The Board's approval of this Order shall constitute a **FINAL ORDER** of the Board.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

15. Respondent's license shall be placed on **PROBATION** for a minimum period of one (1) year, subject to the following terms and conditions:

A. Respondent shall complete one (1) year of monitored practice before being released from probation. Prior to beginning practice monitoring, Respondent shall submit a proposed practice monitor and practice monitoring plan to the Board for approval. The practice monitor shall be a healthcare provider who regularly works on-site with Respondent and is familiar with the site's billing policies. Practice monitoring shall commence upon Board approval of the monitor and plan. Respondent shall provide the practice monitor with a copy of this Order. Respondent shall meet in a face-to-face setting with the practice monitor on a weekly basis during the probation period to review Respondent's clinical and billing records. A minimum of forty-eight (48) meetings per year is required. Respondent's practice monitor shall submit quarterly reports to the Board, due on January 18, April 18, July 18, and October 18 of each year. Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with practice monitoring and for ensuring the quarter reports are timely submitted by her practice monitor.

B. Respondent shall meet in-person with a licensed speech pathologist once a month. Respondent shall provide the licensed speech pathologist with Respondent's clinical and billing records. A minimum of twelve (12) meetings per year is required. Respondent shall provide the licensed speech pathologist with this Order. The licensed speech pathologist shall produce progress reports as requested by the Board.

C. Respondent must complete a minimum of sixteen (16) continuing education hours, including at least eight (8) ethics hours and eight (8) billing or recordkeeping hours. No more than four (4) of these hours may be completed through an online program. These continuing education hours are in addition to the hours required for license renewal and cannot be used to satisfy the continuing education requirement of any license renewal. Respondent shall provide copies of all certificates of completion to the Board as proof of successful completion of this requirement. Respondent is responsible for all costs associated with obtaining the required continuing education.

D. Respondent shall maintain accurate documentation and shall only bill for services that have actually been provided. Respondent shall comply with all laws and rules governing the practice of speech pathology.

E. Respondent shall notify all employers and prospective employers for any position that requires licensure as a speech pathologist (no later than at the time of the employment interview) of this Order.

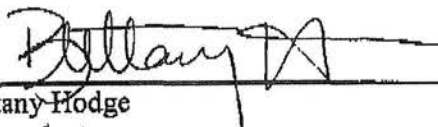
F. Respondent shall appear before the Board upon request. Respondent shall be given reasonable notice of the date, time, and place for such appearances.

G. Respondent shall provide written notification to the Board of any change of home address, telephone number, or place of employment within ten (10) days of such a change.

H. All submissions should be mailed to the Iowa Board of Speech Pathology & Audiology, Attn: Venus Vendoures-Walsh, Bureau of Professional Licensure, Iowa Department of Public Health, Lucas State Office Building—5th Floor, 321 E 12th St, Des Moines, IA 50309, or emailed to Venus.Vendoures-Walsh@idph.iowa.gov.

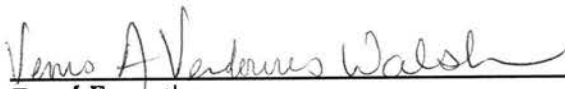
16. Should Respondent violate the terms of this Order, the Board may initiate action to impose other licensee discipline as authorized by Iowa Code chapters 147, 154F, and 272C and 645 IAC chapters 13 and 304.

This Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order is voluntarily submitted by Respondent to the Board for its consideration on the ___ day of _____, 2019.

 1/15/19

Brittany Hodge
Respondent

This Combined Statement of Charges, Settlement Agreement, and Final Order is approved by the Iowa Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology on the 18th day of January, 2019.



Board Executive
Iowa Board of Speech Pathology and Audiology

Copy to:

**Tessa Register
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General of Iowa
1305 East Walnut Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
ATTORNEY FOR THE STATE**