



SASLHA
South African Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Local Tel : 0861 113 297
Address : P. O Box 1690 Umhlanga Rocks
4320
Email : admin@saslha.co.za
Web : www.saslha.co.za

Do's and Don'ts Relating to Additional Qualifications on Official Documentation

Continued professional development is fundamental to our profession; further study and research in the field of one's choice not only benefits the profession as a whole, but ensures that we continue to adhere to the best standards of practice and always follow evidence-based treatment protocols.

While further study and research in our professions are highly encouraged and strongly supported, a concerning trend has been developing, which is often misleading to the public whom we serve and to our co-professionals outside our professions, e.g. the medico-legal field. This refers to how to refer to yourself on official documentation.

While other countries have their own regulations regarding professional registrations and terminology on stationery, SASLHA is cautioning members and therapists at large to refrain from using terminology that may be misleading to the public and other stakeholders with regard to their areas of interest. This is in reference to terms such as *AAC Interventionist*, *Early Interventionist*, *Autism Specialist*, *Prompt Practitioner*, *Remedial Therapist*, and similar terms on all formal documentation, such as letterheads and business cards.

Please be cognisant of the following:

- The HPCSA does not as yet recognise speciality in the profession of speech and language therapy and/or audiology. You may advertise yourself as having 'a special interest in', but not as a 'specialist in'.
- Your qualifications may indicate where your specialities / interests lie, but you cannot do more than that and create new professional titles.
- No application has to date been made to the HPCSA for any specific area of study and interest (such as AAC) to be recognised as a speciality, or for a Master's degree and/or a PhD in said area to be the qualifying criteria.
- There is no separate registration with the HPCSA as an AAC Interventionist, Remedial Therapist etc. You may register your higher degree with the HPCSA, but it does not change the category under which you are registered, regardless of the topic of the said degree. [Click here](#) to view rules downloaded from the HPCSA website.
- Your higher degree(s) obtained and registered with the HPCSA may be stated next to your name but only as is stated on your registration e.g. MA; PhD etc.

As such in South Africa, speech and language therapists and/or audiologists are not permitted to state on any official documentation that they have a special interest in a field of practice. This is regardless of the level of study undertaken in a topic. One may list one's qualifications in abbreviated format as in the attachment, but no other terminology should follow this. This is in line with Ethical Guidelines as stipulated by the HPCSA.

- While our professions continue to change and develop and regulations are changed or amended, SASLHA's position statement will adapt accordingly in line with the rules and regulations of the HPCSA.

SASLHA Ethics and Standards Committee