

## ***What are you doing about TINNITUS and are you legal?***

Here is the ruling from the Health Licensing office, the Advisory Council on Hearing Aids and  
THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### **Are the diagnosis and treatment of tinnitus within the scope of practice of a hearing aid specialist?**

**Answer: No.** ORS 694.015(2)'s definition of "dealing in hearing aids" does not include the diagnosis and treatment an underlying disease or defect that interferes with human hearing such as tinnitus. Instead, "dealing in hearing aids" means the measuring of a person's hearing capability when evaluating and measuring their hearing range so that they can be fitted with a hearing aid or to have their hearing aid adapted for a different range or power of hearing

### **May hearing aid specialists advertise that they can treat tinnitus?**

**Answer: No.** Since the diagnosis and treatment of tinnitus are not within a hearing aid specialist's scope of practice, it is not permissible to advertise that they can treat the condition.

### **What happens if the Health Licensing Office receives a complaint that a hearing aid specialist is unlawfully or negligently practicing audiology or medicine?**

**Answer:** HLO and the Advisory Council on Hearing Aids do not regulate the practice of audiology or medicine. HLO will refer the complaint to the Oregon Medical Board, Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, or other appropriate health professional regulatory board. A hearing aid specialist may be subject to investigation and possible sanctions if found to be providing services that are not within their scope of practice.

To see the whole article go to this web site;

[www.oregon.gov/OHLA/HAS/Pages/issue\\_responses.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/OHLA/HAS/Pages/issue_responses.aspx)