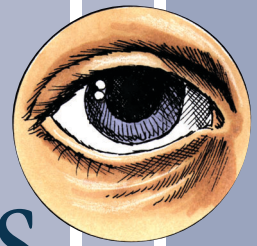


The State Board of Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians



consumer *brief*

THE HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF THE BOARD

The State Board of Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians was created in 1952, and the law which created it was amended and expanded in 1979.

The Board's purpose is to protect the health, welfare and safety of consumers by regulating of the sale, dispensing and supplying of all ophthalmic appliances, eyeglasses or ophthalmic lenses.

Ophthalmic appliances and lenses are defined as those employed for the aid or protection of human vision or for the correction of defects in human vision.

WHAT IS AN OPHTHALMIC DISPENSER/TECHNICIAN?

An ophthalmic dispenser fabricates, prepares and dispenses lenses, spectacles, eyeglasses or related accessories based on written prescriptions from duly-licensed physicians or optometrists.

An ophthalmic dispenser interprets, measures, adapts, fits and adjusts such items to the human face for the aid or correction of visual or ocular anomalies of the human eyes. Duplications, replacements and reproductions may be done without a prescription.

Ophthalmic technicians have a knowledge of optics and are skilled in the technique of producing and reproducing ophthalmic lenses and similar products and mounting same to frames.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE LICENSING PROCESS?

Those who seek licensure as an ophthalmic dispenser or ophthalmic technician must serve a period of apprenticeship under the direct supervision of a licensed ophthalmic dispenser or a licensed ophthalmic technician.

If you have access to the Internet and would like to learn more about what is involved in becoming an apprentice, go to the Board's Web site,

www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov/oph/Pages/default.aspx, click on the link for Laws and Regulations, then click on the link for Ophthalmic Dispensers and Technicians Regulations and scroll up to *New Jersey Administrative Code* 13:33-1.5.



N.J.A.C. 13:33-1.8 and 1.9 will provide you with a detailed description of what an apprentice in either category will need to know before he/she can take the required examination after completing the necessary courses at a school accredited by the Commission of Opticianry Accreditation.

N.J.A.C. 13:33-2.1 through 2.5 outline the licensure process for both ophthalmic dispensers and ophthalmic technicians.

It is important to note that physicians and optometrists duly licensed to practice medicine and optometry in this State, are specifically exempt from the licensing provisions for Ophthalmic Dispensers and Technicians.

Continued

800-242-5846 › New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs
www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov



CONTACT AND COMPLAINT INFORMATION

If you need to consult with an ophthalmic dispenser or an ophthalmic technician, you can go to the Board's Web site and click on the link for Consumer Information. Once you are there, you may enter the name of the licensee you are considering visiting to learn if his/her license is current and in good standing, and whether there has been any disciplinary action taken against that individual by the Board.

In addition, if you should ever encounter a problem with any of this Board's licensees and wish to file a complaint, the complaint form may also be found under the Consumer Information link. The complaint form must be downloaded, filled out by hand and mailed to the State Board of Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and

Ophthalmic Technicians, with photocopies of any relevant documents, at the Newark address indicated below.

The Board's investigation and review of any pertinent evidence may take a few months and, of course, the licensee will be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. Fee disputes are almost always referred to the Division of Consumer Affairs' Alternative Dispute Resolution Unit, which has a superlative record of resolving fee disputes amicably.

New Jersey's State Board of Examiners of Ophthalmic Dispensers and Ophthalmic Technicians works diligently to protect the health, welfare and safety of consumers who seek to use the vital services offered by its licensees.

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General **DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS**



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