



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OPTICIAN

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear Applicant:

Please be advised, pursuant to Section 17a-101 of the Connecticut General Statutes (see reverse side), certain health professions regulated by the Department of Public Health are mandated to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline or a law enforcement agency.

Reports must be made within twelve hours of the moment you suspect the abuse/neglect has occurred. Suspected child maltreatment of any kind, regardless of the identity of the alleged perpetrator must be reported. The Hotline number is 1-800-842-2288 and is available on a 24 hour 7 day a week basis. A copy of the child abuse reporting laws is enclosed. The Hotline can answer questions you may have regarding these laws.

It is important that you become familiar with Connecticut's reporting laws as failure to meet reporting responsibilities may subject you to criminal prosecution and possible action against your license or certificate.

Should you have any questions regarding your licensure or certification, please contact the Department of Public Health at the number in this application.



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Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 319a
Child Welfare
Child Abuse Reporting Laws

Sec.17a-101. (Formerly Sec. 17-38a). Protection of children from abuse. Mandated reporters. Educational and training programs. (a) The public policy of this state is: To protect children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected through injury and neglect; to strengthen the family and to make the home safe for children by enhancing the parental capacity for good child care; to provide a temporary or permanent nurturing and safe environment for children when necessary; and for these purposes to require the reporting of suspected child abuse, investigation of such reports by a social agency, and provision of services, where needed, to such child and family. (b) The following persons shall be mandated reporters: Any physician or surgeon licensed under the provisions of chapter 370, any resident physician or intern in any hospital in this state, whether or not so licensed, any registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, medical examiner, dentist, dental hygienist, psychologist, coach of intramural or interscholastic athletics, school teacher, school principal, school guidance counselor, school paraprofessional, school coach, social worker, police officer, juvenile or adult probation officer, juvenile or adult parole officer, member of the clergy, pharmacist, physical therapist, optometrist, chiropractor, podiatrist, mental health professional or physician assistant, any person who is a licensed or certified emergency medical services provider, any person who is a licensed or certified alcohol and drug counselor, any person who is a licensed marital and family therapist, any person who is a sexual assault counselor or a battered women's counselor as defined in section 52-146k, any person who is a licensed professional counselor, any person paid to care for a child in any public or private facility, child day care center, group day care home or family day care home licensed by the state, any employee of the Department of Children and Families, any employee of the Department of Public Health who is responsible for the licensing of child day care centers, group day care homes, family day care homes or youth camps, the Child Advocate and any employee of the Office of Child Advocate. (c) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall develop an educational training program for the accurate and prompt identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect. Such training program shall be made available to all persons mandated to report child abuse and neglect at various times and locations throughout the state as determined by the Commissioner of Children and Families. (d) Any mandated reporter, as defined in subsection (b) of this section, who fails to report to the Commissioner of Children and Families pursuant to section 17a-101a shall be required to participate in an educational and training program established by the commissioner. The program may be provided by one or more private organizations approved by the commissioner, provided the entire costs of the program shall be paid from fees charged to the participants, the amount of which shall be subject to the approval of the commissioner.

Sec.17a-101a. Report of abuse, neglect or injury of child or imminent risk of serious harm to child. Penalty for failure to report. Any mandated reporter, as defined in section 17a-101, who in the ordinary course of such person's employment or profession has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child under the age of eighteen years (1) has been abused or neglected, as defined in section 46b-120, (2) has had nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of such injury, inflicted upon such child, or (3) is placed at imminent risk of serious harm, shall report or cause a report to be made in accordance with the provisions of sections 17a-101b to 17a-101d, inclusive. Any person required to report under the provisions of this section who fails to make such report shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars nor more than two thousand five hundred dollars and shall be required to participate in an educational and training program pursuant to subsection (d) of section 17a-101.

Sec.17a-101b. Oral report by mandated reporter. Notification of law enforcement agency when allegation of sexual abuse or serious physical abuse. Notification of person in charge of institution, facility or school when staff member suspected of abuse or neglect. (a) An oral report shall be made by a mandated reporter as soon as practicable but not later than twelve hours after the mandated reporter has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child has been abused or neglected or placed in imminent risk of serious harm, by telephone or in person to the Commissioner of Children and Families or a law enforcement agency. If a law enforcement agency receives an oral report, it shall immediately notify the Commissioner of Children and Families.

(b) If the commissioner or the commissioner's designee suspects or knows that such person has knowingly made a false report, the identity of such person shall be disclosed to the appropriate law enforcement agency and to the perpetrator of the alleged abuse.

(c) If the Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's designee, receives a report alleging sexual abuse or serious physical abuse, including, but not limited to, a report that: (1) A child has died; (2) a child has been sexually assaulted; (3) a child has suffered brain damage or loss or serious impairment of a bodily function or organ; (4) a child has been sexually exploited; or (5) a child has suffered serious nonaccidental physical injury, the commissioner shall, within twelve hours of receipt of such report, notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.

(d) Whenever a mandated reporter, as defined in section 17a-101, has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that any child has been abused or neglected by a member of the staff of a public or private institution or facility that provides care for such child or a public or private school, the mandated reporter shall report as required in subsection (a) of this section. The Commissioner of Children and Families or the commissioner's designee shall notify the person in charge of such institution, facility or school or the person's designee, unless such person is the alleged perpetrator of the abuse or neglect of such child. Such person in charge, or such person's designee, shall then immediately notify the child's parent or other person responsible for the child's care that a report has been made.

17a-101c. Written report by mandated reporter. Within forty-eight hours of making an oral report, a mandated reporter shall submit a written report to the Commissioner of Children and Families or his representative. When a mandated reporter is a member of the staff of a public or private institution or facility that provides care for such child or public or private school he shall also submit a copy of the written report to the person in charge of such institution, school or facility or the person's designee. In the case of a report concerning a certified school employee, a copy of the written report shall also be sent by the person in charge of such institution, school or facility to the Commissioner of Education or his representative. In the case of an employee of a facility or institution that provides care for a child which is licensed by the state, a copy of the written report shall also be sent by the mandated reporter to the executive head of the state licensing agency.

Sec.17a-101d. Contents of oral and written reports. All oral and written reports required in sections 17a-101a to 17a-101c, inclusive, and section 17a-103, shall contain, if known: (1) The names and addresses of the child and his parents or other person responsible for his care; (2) the age of the child; (3) the gender of the child; (4) the nature and extent of the child's injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect; (5) the approximate date and time the injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect occurred; (6) information concerning any previous injury or injuries to, or maltreatment or neglect of, the child or his siblings; (7) the circumstances in which the injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect came to be known to the reporter; (8) the name of the person or persons suspected to be responsible for causing such injury or injuries, maltreatment or neglect; and (9) whatever action, if any, was taken to treat, provide shelter or otherwise assist the child.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

APPLICATION FOR OPTICIAN LICENSURE

AN APPLICATION WILL NOT BE REVIEWED BY PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE DEPARTMENT UNTIL ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

- ☞ It is the responsibility of the applicant to arrange for submission of all required documentation for timely completion of the application. The Department does **NOT** notify applicants of incomplete documentation. It is recommended that applicants who are interested in expediting licensure contact the Department periodically to monitor the status of their file with regard to the receipt of supporting documents.
- ☞ Educational credentials earned in a country other than the United States (or Canada in some instances) must be evaluated by a credential evaluation service approved by the Department. Documents in a language other than English **must** be translated by a certified translation service in accordance with instructions from this office. Applicants to whom these provisions apply should request additional information from this office.
- ☞ No personal checks are accepted. Please remit the application fee, by **CERTIFIED CHECK or MONEY ORDER ONLY**, payable to "TREASURER, STATE OF CONNECTICUT", in United States dollars. All fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. The fee which accompanies an application covers the cost of reviewing and processing that specific application; **IT CANNOT BE REFUNDED, EVEN IF THE APPLICANT IS FOUND INELIGIBLE FOR LICENSURE.**
- ☞ Any incomplete application which has remained inactive for one year will be destroyed in accordance with the agency's record retention plan. To reactivate the application process, a completely new application and fee will be required.
- ☞ Licensure requirements are subject to change as a result of new legislation, new rules and regulations, or from new policies and procedures adopted by the Department of Public Health working, where appropriate, in cooperation with various Boards of Examiners. Applicants must meet current licensure requirements.

The fee for initial licensure covers the cost of eligibility determination and related administrative functions; at such time as an applicant is determined eligible for licensure, the process of licensure issuance will proceed immediately. The licensure renewal fee is separate and distinct from the application fee. Licenses are renewed annually during the licensee's month of birth. Renewal will be required in the **FIRST** birth month which immediately follows the issuance of licensure. The full renewal fee will be required regardless of the date of initial licensure.

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Optician Licensure Requirements

Any individual wishing to dispense prescription optical goods to the public shall be licensed as an optician. Any individual wishing to become a licensed optician must first have completed at least four (4) years of apprenticeship under the supervision of a licensed optician or have received an Associates Degree in ophthalmic dispensing approved by the Board. Please note that should you plan to work as an optical apprentice, you must be registered even if you possess an Associate Degree.

EXAMINATIONS All applicants must successfully complete three (3) examinations:

1. The American Board of Opticianry's National Opticianry Competency Examination. You may apply for the exam by writing: American Board of Opticianry (ABO), 6506 Loisdale Rd., Suite 209, Springfield, VA 22150, (703) 719-5800.
2. The National Contact Lens Examination (NCLE) is required of all applicants. The times and places for this exam can be obtained from the ABO.
3. Connecticut State Board Practical Examination. All applicants for licensure must demonstrate proficiency in the practical skills required of a licensed optician. Knowledge of Connecticut General Statutes and Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies concerning opticianry will also be tested.

Documentation Requirements

1. Notarized application with a recent passport type photograph and a bank check or Money Order for \$100.00, payable to: "Treasurer, State of Connecticut".
2. If applicable, verification of apprenticeship (forms attached). **Note:** if you have previously verified your apprenticeship to the Department's satisfaction, you need not repeat the process.
3. If applicable, official transcript verifying the completion of an Associates Degree in ophthalmic dispensing sent directly to this office from the institution attended. Please Note: if you have already submitted an official transcript, you need not repeat the process.
4. An official ABO & NCLE exam report.
5. If applicable, official verification, sent directly from each licensing authority where you hold/held a license, certification or registration (form enclosed)

REINSTATEMENT APPLICANTS

In addition to the documentation required as outlined by "1", and "5" above, **reinstatement applicants** must ensure that the following documents be forwarded directly to this office:

- (a) **A written synopsis (not a resume) of your professional activities since lapse of license.**
- (b) **Letter directly from the appropriate authority confirming your most recent employment;** including dates and evaluation of your performance;
- (c) **Continuing Education requirements:** see Sec. 20-146 (c)-1 to 20-146 (c)-7

For information regarding examination dates please call (860) 509-7603 or click onto this website:

<http://www.dph.state.ct.us/Publications/BRS/HSR/exams.htm> .

All supporting documents must be sent directly from the prime source to:

Optician Licensure
410 Capitol Ave., MS# 12APP
P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, CT 06134-0308

Privacy Act: The Privacy Act of 1974 requires any federal, state or local government agency that requires individuals to disclose their social security numbers to inform those individuals whether the disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, by what statutory or other authority the number is requested and how it will be used. The following information is provided to comply with these requirements. Disclosure of the social security number is mandatory, pursuant to Public Law 104-193 and Sections 29-252a (b) and 4a-18, Connecticut General Statutes. The social security number is used in the administration and collection of taxes and is also used for child support collection. Please note that the Department will **ONLY** disclose social security numbers to government entities. Your social security number will **NOT** be released to the general public.

STATEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Please answer each question below. If you answer yes to any question, please refer to attached instructions.

- 1. Have you ever been censured, disciplined, dismissed or expelled from, had admissions monitored or restricted, had privileges limited, suspended or terminated, been put on probation, or been requested to resign or withdraw from any of the following: Yes No
 - Any hospital, nursing home, clinic, or similar institution;
 - Any health maintenance organization, professional partnership, corporation, or similar health practice organization, either private or public;
 - Any professional school, clinical clerkship, internship, externship, preceptorship or postgraduate training program;
 - Any third party reimbursement program, whether governmental or private?

- 2. Have you ever had your membership in or certification by any professional society or association suspended or revoked for reasons related to professional practice? Yes No

- 3. Has any professional licensing or disciplinary body in any state, the District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory, or a foreign jurisdiction, limited, restricted, suspended or revoked any professional license, certificate, or registration granted to you, or imposed a fine or reprimand, or taken any other disciplinary action against you? Yes No

- 4. Have you ever, in anticipation or during the pendency of an investigation or other disciplinary proceeding, voluntarily surrendered any professional license, certificate or registration issued to you by any state, the District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory, or a foreign jurisdiction? Yes No

- 5. Have you ever been subject to, or do you currently have pending, any complaint, investigation, charge, or disciplinary action by any professional licensing or disciplinary body in any state, the District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory, or a foreign jurisdiction or any disciplinary board/committee of any branch of the armed services? You need not report any complaints dismissed as without merit. Yes No

- 6. Have you ever entered into, or do you currently have pending, a consent agreement of any kind, whether oral or written, with any professional licensing or disciplinary body in any state, the District of Columbia, a United States possession or territory, any branch of the armed services or a foreign jurisdiction? Yes No

- 7. Have you ever been found guilty or convicted as a result of an act which constitutes a felony under the laws of this state, federal law or the laws of another jurisdiction and which, if committed within this state, would have constituted a felony under the laws of this state? Yes No

- 1. If your answer is "yes", give full details, names, addresses, etc. on separate notarized statement.
- 2. If your answer is "yes", give names of professional society or association, date and reasons your membership or certification was suspended or revoked on a separate notarized statement.
- 3. If your answer is "yes", give full details, names, addresses, etc. on a separate notarized statement.
- 4. If your answer is "yes" give full details, names, addresses, etc. on a separate notarized statement.
- 5. If your answer is "yes" give full details, names, addresses, etc. on a separate notarized statement.
- 6. If your answer is "yes" give full details on a separate notarized statement and submit notarized copy of agreement.
- 7. If your answer is "yes" give full details on a separate notarized statement and furnish a Certified Court Copy (with court seal affixed) of the original complaint, the answer, the judgement, the settlement, and/or the disposition of the case.



**Affix a recent
photograph of
applicant here**

All of the above statements
contained herein are true and
correct to the best of my
knowledge and belief.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

On _____, 20____ (applicant's name) personally appeared
before me, who being duly sworn says that she/he is the person referred to in the foregoing application and that the
photograph attached hereto is a true picture of self and that the statements made herein are true in every respect.

Sworn to me before this _____ day of _____ 20_____

_____ My Commission expires _____
Signature of Notary Public

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION AND THE FEE FOR \$100.00 (CERTIFIED CHECK OR MONEY
ORDER) MADE PAYABLE TO, "TREASURER, STATE OF CONNECTICUT" TO:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OPTICIAN LICENSURE
410 CAPITOL AVE., **MS# 12 MQA**
P.O. BOX 340308
HARTFORD, CT 06134-0308

IMPORTANT: The application packet for this profession consists of 23 pages, including instructions and
eligibility requirements. Do not send this form and a fee unless you have read and understood all pertinent
information. No fees are refundable should you not be eligible for licensure.

CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES

CHAPTER 381 OPTICIANS

Section 20-139. Purpose and legislative policy. The provisions of this chapter are enacted in the exercise of the police powers of the state, and the purposes thereof generally are to protect public health, welfare and safety. It is declared that regulation is required of all optical appliances, eyeglasses, lenses, optical instruments intended to be used for the human eye, as well as any and all aids to human vision, sold, dispensed or supplied to the ultimate wearer or consumer in this state; and that persons filling prescriptions having to do with optical glasses from given formulas, and kindred products, and others engaged in the practice of optical dispensing, shall possess the education, special knowledge, skill, technique and ability to apply such knowledge in order to properly fill any such formulas correcting visual or ocular anomalies of the human eye and shall be licensed, and that all optical establishments, offices, departments or stores, as well as all optical shops and laboratories, shall be registered pursuant to the provisions of the statutes governing opticians. Without the control of standards and quality of optical goods, appliances, instruments or other aids to vision, the sale, dispensing and distribution to the public would be such as to constitute a menace to the public health, welfare and safety; and because of the foregoing, and in order further to safeguard and insure a high standard of sale, dispensing and distribution of such optical appliances, instruments and aids to human vision, it is necessary that there should be legislation pertaining to the quality, sale, dispensing and distribution of such optical appliances, instruments and aids to human vision, and also to persons engaged in the optical industry. The foregoing statements of facts, purposes, policy and application are declared to be matters of intended legislative determination and are declared to be applicable to the provisions of this chapter.

Section 20-139a. Board of Examiners for Opticians. (a) There shall be within the department of public health a Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians. Said board shall consist of three members appointed by the governor, subject to the provisions of section 4-9a, as follows: Two practicing licensed opticians in good professional standing who reside in this state and one public member. The governor shall appoint a chairman from among such members.

(b) Said board shall meet at least once during each calendar quarter and at such other times as the chairman deems necessary. Special meetings shall be held on the request of a majority of the board after notice in accordance with the provisions of section 1-21. A majority of the members of the board shall constitute a quorum. Members shall not be compensated for their services. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from office. Minutes of all meetings shall be recorded by the board. No members shall participate in the affairs of the board during the pendency of any disciplinary proceedings by the board against such member. No professional member shall be an elected or appointed officer of a professional society of opticians or have been such an officer during the year immediately preceding his appointment.

(c) The commissioner of public health, with advice and assistance from the board, may make and enforce such regulations as the commissioner deems necessary to maintain proper professional and ethical standards for opticians. The board may revoke or suspend licenses for cause.

(d) The Board of Examiners for Opticians shall (1) hear and decide matters concerning suspension or revocation of licensure, (2) adjudicate complaints filed against practitioners licensed under this chapter and (3) impose sanctions where appropriate.

Section 20-140a. Receipts credited to general fund. All moneys received by the department of public health under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid into the state treasury to the credit of the general fund.

Section 20-141. Powers and duties of board and commissioner. (a) The commissioner of public health, with advice and assistance from the Board of Examiners for Opticians, shall make regulations not inconsistent with law, and in conformity with the declared policy of this chapter, as may be necessary to govern the conduct of the business of dispensing or grinding optical glasses and instruments for the optical business and the producing and reproducing of ophthalmic lenses and kindred products and the mounting of the same to supporting materials and the fitting of the same to the eyes. Said board may revoke, suspend or refuse to issue licenses, certificates of registration or permits for cause. The commissioner may issue subpoenas, administer oaths and take testimony.

(b) Said board shall keep a record of its proceedings and a copy of any such record, certified by the commissioner, shall be admitted as evidence in any civil or criminal action in lieu of such record.

Section 20-143. Commissioner may employ inspectors. Duties of inspectors. The commissioner of public health may, from time to time, employ an inspector or inspectors, who shall inspect during usual business hours, licensees or optical permittees and places in which eyeglasses are sold or dispensed or ground in accordance with a given formula. Such inspectors shall report to said commissioner any violation of the provisions of this chapter.

Section 20-145. Definition of licensed optician. A licensed optician, for the purposes of this chapter, shall be defined as follows: One having a knowledge of optics and skilled in the technique of producing and reproducing ophthalmic lenses and kindred products and mounting the same to supporting materials and the fitting of the same to the eyes.

Section 20-146. Licensed opticians; examinations. Licensure without examination. (a) Except as provided in section 20-146a, no person shall produce or reproduce ophthalmic lenses and similar products or mount the same to supporting materials or fit the same by mechanical manipulation, molding techniques or other related functions, unless such person is licensed by the department of public health. Said department may issue license certificates as licensed optician to all persons who lawfully apply for the same, upon their submitting to the commission an acceptable written application, and after they have passed examinations as hereinafter provided: Any person shall be admitted to take the examinations for a license to practice as a licensed optician who has satisfied the department that he is a person of good professional character, has served as a registered apprentice for not less than four calendar years full-time employment under the supervision of a licensed optician in an optical establishment, office, department, store, shop or laboratory where prescriptions for optical glasses from given formulas have been filled, and has acquired experience in the producing and reproducing of ophthalmic lenses, mounting the same to supporting materials, of which one year, at least, shall have been acquired within the five years last preceding the date of such application and who has acquired experience in the fitting of ophthalmic lenses to the eyes by mechanical manipulation, molding technique or other related functions, of which one year, at least, shall have been acquired within the five years last preceding the date of such application, under the supervision of a licensed optician. Any person who is licensed to perform optical services in any other state or territory with licensure requirements similar to or higher than those required in this state shall be eligible for licensure without examination. Successful completion of a two-year educational program approved by the board with the consent of the commissioner of public health may be substituted for the four-year work experience requirement.

(b) All examinations shall be conducted in the English language and shall be written and oral as well as by practical demonstration. The examinations for licensed optician shall include inquiry into the theory and practice of the fundamentals of mechanical and technical knowledge, optics, mathematics, physics, chemistry

and physiology as they pertain to the functional knowledge and application of producing and reproducing ophthalmic lenses and the mounting of the same to supporting materials and shall also include further examination into the theory and practice of fitting, adapting and designing of optical glasses from given formulas, or kindred products, to the ultimate wearer by mechanical manipulation, molding techniques or other related functions. Such examinations shall be conducted at least once each year by the department of public health, under the supervision of the board. The examination shall be prescribed by the department with the advice and consent of the board.

(c) Each licensed optician shall meet such continuing education requirements as the Commissioner of Public Health may establish. The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, setting forth continuing education requirements for licensed opticians.

Section 20-146a. Registration of inmates as apprentices. Credit toward licensure. Any inmate employed in an optical shop established and maintained by the commissioner of correction, as provided in section 18-88, shall be entitled to register as an apprentice with the department of public health and shall receive credit for such period of employment towards fulfillment of the requirements for licensure under this chapter.

Section 20-147. Waiver of requirements in case of veterans. The department may, in its discretion, suspend any of the provisions of the statutes governing qualifications for examinations for opticians as to veterans of the Second World War and of the Korean hostilities, as defined by section 27-103, if said department deems such provisions to be unjust to such veterans, provided the public health and safety shall not be jeopardized by such suspension.

Sec. 20-147a. Students enrolled in opticianry programs. Notwithstanding any provisions of this chapter to the contrary, any student enrolled in an educational program in opticianry in a regionally accredited institution of higher education may (1) perform such work as is incidental to his course of study at such institution and (2) participate in the operation of any course of study within such institution for the practical training of students in the technique of producing and reproducing ophthalmic lenses and kindred products and mounting the same to supporting materials and the fitting of the same to the eyes under the direct supervision of an optician licensed pursuant to this chapter.

Section 20-149. License fees. Renewal. A license under the provisions of this chapter shall be given under the hand of the commissioner of public health or his designee. A fee shall be paid to the department, at the date of application for a license, as follows: For licensed optician, granting full responsibility, one hundred dollars. Such licenses shall be renewed annually in accordance with the provisions of section 19a-88 and a fee shall be paid to the department at the date of renewal application as follows: For a licensed optician, one hundred dollars.

Section 20-150. Where optical goods may be sold. (a) No optical glasses or kindred products or other instruments to aid vision that are produced or reproduced to personalized given formulas, or plano cosmetic contact lenses shall be sold at retail except under the supervision of a licensed optician and in a registered optical establishment, office or store. An optical establishment, office or store is defined as meaning one the owner of which has had issued to him an optical license selling permit.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be construed to limit the ability of a physician, licensed under chapter 370, who is trained and specializes in diseases of the eye or an optometrist, licensed under chapter 380, to dispense contact lenses.

(c) A violation of the provisions of subsection (a) of this section constitutes an unfair trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b.

Section 20-151. Optical selling permits. Any licensed optician and any optical department in any establishment, office or store may apply to said department for a registration certificate to sell at retail optical glasses and instruments from given formulas and to make and dispense reproductions of the same, in a shop, store, optical establishment or office owned and managed by a licensed optician as defined in section 20-145 or where the optical department thereof is under the supervision of such a licensed optician, and said registration shall be designated as an optical selling permit. Said department shall grant such permits for a period not exceeding one year, upon the payment of a fee of two hundred fifty dollars, and upon satisfactory evidence to said department that such optical establishment, office or store is being conducted in accordance with the regulations adopted under this chapter. Such permit shall be conspicuously posted within such optical establishment, office or store. All permits issued under the provisions of this chapter shall expire on September first in each year.

Section 20-153. Optical permit. Product; standards of quality. The department may grant annually, upon the filing of an application as required by it, an optical permit to any optical establishment, office, department or store conducted under the personal and direct supervision of a licensed optician, for permission to sell, dispense or supply to the ultimate wearer optical aids to vision, instruments, appliances, eyeglasses, spectacles and other kindred products. Holders of such an optical permit shall be permitted to use the term "optician" or any of its synonyms. No optical permit shall be issued to any person, firm or corporation owning, managing or conducting any optical establishment, department, store, office or place of business and employing any person lawfully licensed to prescribe optical glasses from given prescription formulas, unless such person is also licensed as a licensed optician, except as provided in section 20-162. The quality of optical lenses, spectacles, eyeglasses, optical appliances or instruments and other aids to vision and kindred products of optical glasses shall meet whichever of the following standards may be applicable: (1) American National Standards Institute Z.80, as amended, "Requirements for First Quality Prescription Ophthalmic Lenses" which standard shall reflect current standards for first-quality prescription ophthalmic lenses in edged or assembled form, white, colorless or tinted, single vision or multifocal, plastic or laminated, impact-resistance-treated or untreated glass lenses, or any other ophthalmic lenses, prescription or otherwise, as may be designed and covered under such adopted standards; or (2) American National Standards Institute Z.87, as amended, "Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection"; or, (3) such other standard as may be established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-141. The commissioner of public health, with advice and assistance from the board shall make reasonable regulations so that the public may not be misled in the purchase or acquisition of the same.

Section 20-153a. Lens and frame requirements. (a) No person shall sell, distribute or deliver any eyeglasses or sunglasses unless they are fitted with impact resistant lenses that fully meet the definitions, specifications, test procedures and tolerances for impact resistance and any exceptions provided for in the statement of policy of the federal Food and Drug Administration and whichever of the following standards may be applicable: (1) American National Standards Institute Z.80.1, as amended, "requirements for first quality prescription ophthalmic lenses", or such other standard as may be established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-141, which standard shall apply to first-quality prescription ophthalmic lenses in edged or assembled form, white, colorless or tinted, single-vision or multifocal, plastic, laminated, impact-resistance-treated or untreated glass lenses, or (2) American National Standards Institute Z.87.1, as amended, "practice for occupational and educational eye and face protection", or such other standard as may be established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-141, which standard shall apply to all occupational and educational operations and processes, excluding those relating to x-rays, gamma rays, high-energy particulate radiations, lasers, or masers; except in those cases where in his professional judgment the physician or optometrist finds that such lenses will not fulfill the visual requirements of the particular patient and directs in writing the use of other lenses.

(b) No person shall fabricate, sell, offer to sell or have in his possession with intent to sell or offer to sell eyeglasses or sunglasses having frames manufactured from cellulose nitrate or materials having flammable characteristics approximately those of cellulose nitrate as found and established in the American National Standards Institute standards, as amended, or such other standard as may be established in regulations adopted pursuant to section 20-141.

(c) Any person who violates this section shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars.

Section 20-154. Regulations concerning licenses and permits. Disciplinary action; grounds. The commissioner of public health, with advice and assistance from said board, may make regulations concerning the licensing of any optician, the granting of any permit to any optical department or the certification of any licensed optician, and the suspension or revocation of any such license or permit, or with reference to the conduct of any such licensee or permittee and the manner in which any such licensed optical department is conducted. Any license to practice as a licensed optician or to conduct any optical department may be suspended or revoked or reissued by said board. The certificate of registration, permit or license of any optician or of any optical permittee may be revoked, suspended or annulled or any action taken under section 19a-17 upon decision after notice and hearing by the board for any of the following reasons: Fraudulent, dishonest, illegal or incompetent or negligent conduct of his business as such licensee or permittee; aiding or abetting any unlicensed person whose license has been suspended or revoked, or any optical permittee whose permit has been suspended or revoked in the conduct of an optician's establishment, office or store; violation of any provision of this chapter or any regulation adopted hereunder; presentation to the department of any diploma, license or certificate, irregularly or fraudulently obtained or from any unrecognized or irregular college or state commission, or obtained by the practice of any fraud or deception; physical or mental illness, emotional disorder or loss of motor skill, including but not limited to, deterioration through the aging process; abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics or chemicals. The commissioner of public health may order a license holder to submit to a reasonable physical or mental examination if his physical or mental capacity to practice safely is the subject of an investigation. Said commissioner may petition the superior court for the judicial district of Hartford to enforce such order or any action taken pursuant to section 19a-17. The violation of any of the provisions of this chapter by any unlicensed employee in the employ of any of its licensees or permittees, with the knowledge of his employer, shall be deemed to be a violation thereof by his employer; and continued violation thereof by such an unlicensed employee shall be deemed to be, prima facie, with the knowledge of such employer.

Section 20-156. Appeal. Any licensee or permittee aggrieved by the action of the board under section 19a-17 may appeal therefrom as provided in section 4-183, except such appeal shall be made returnable to the judicial district of Hartford at Hartford.

Section 20-157. License and permit to be conspicuously displayed. Each person practicing as a licensed optician and each holder of an optical permit shall, at all times, conspicuously display his license or permit in the place in which he practices under such license or permit.

Section 20-158. Restricted use of license or permit. Each licensee or permittee licensed under the provisions of this chapter who rents, loans or allows the use of his permit or license to an unlicensed person for unlawful use shall be fined one hundred dollars and shall forfeit his license as such licensee or permittee.

Section 20-159. Apprentices to register; certification by employer. Each person entering into employment in an optical office, store or establishment for the purpose of obtaining practical experience and skill required under the provisions of this chapter shall register as an apprentice with the department and the computation of any period of apprenticeship shall commence at the date of such registration. Such application for registration shall be certified to, under oath, by the employer and by such applicant, and the department may issue to such

applicant an apprentice's certificate. A renewal of each certification of such apprenticeship shall be filed with the department annually. A fee of twenty-five dollars shall accompany the original application and any renewals of same. Any person who served part of his apprenticeship in any other state or country not requiring such registration shall be obliged to give proof of such service satisfactory to the department.

Section 20-160. Deceptive ownership or management of optical establishments. Misuse of designations.

Any person, firm or corporation, owning, managing or conducting any store, shop or place of business, not holding an optical permit or an optician's license, or not having in his or its employ a licensed optician for the supervision of such store, office, place of business or optical establishment, or including in any advertisement, whether in a newspaper, book, magazine or other printed matter, or by radio, the term "optician", "licensed optician", "optical establishment", "optical office", "opticians" or any combination of such terms, within or without such store, in such manner as to mislead the public to the belief that the same is a legally established optical place of business, licensed as such, or owned, managed or conducted by a person holding an optician's license, or that such person, firm or corporation is the holder of an optical permit, when, in fact, it is not, shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than six months or both.

Section 20-161. Penalty. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter, for the violation of which no other penalty has been provided, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than five years or both. For purposes of this section each instance of patient contact or consultation which is in violation of any provision of this section shall constitute a separate offense. Failure to renew a license in a timely manner shall not constitute a violation for the purposes of this section.

Section 20-162. Exceptions for certified optometrists and physicians and surgeons. The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to apply to certified optometrists licensed to practice under the provisions of chapter 380 nor to deny to physicians or surgeons particularly trained and specializing in diseases of the eye and licensed under the provisions of chapter 370 from the same right to fit, apply and dispense contact lenses or other ophthalmic materials to their patients in the course of their practice as is accorded licensed optometrists. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to permit such physicians or surgeons to engage in the business of either grinding lenses or filling prescriptions for optical glasses, lenses or ophthalmic materials unless they are licensed or certified under the provisions of this chapter or chapter 380.

REGULATIONS OF CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES OPTICIANS

Sec. 19a-14-50. Definitions. For the purposes of these regulations, "Doctor" means either a physician licensed pursuant to Chapter 370 of the Connecticut General Statutes or an Optometrist licensed pursuant to Chapter 380 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Sec. 19a-14-51. Optician Record Retention. For each client fitted with prescription eyeglasses or prescribed contact lenses, a licensed optician shall keep a record. When prescription items are dispensed by a registered apprentice optician, the supervising licensed optician must verify the accuracy of all the data included in the client record and indicate this on the record. A client record shall contain the following:

(a) Prescription Eyewear

Records shall include:

- (1) Doctor's prescription and date, including name of prescribing doctor;
- (2) Date of delivering said prescription, to include any duplication of existing lenses;
- (3) Facial measurements, to include but not be limited to: interpupillary measures; frame size determinations, including eye size, bridge size, temple length;
- (4) Name of frame provided; and
- (5) Lens description to include: lens materials; placement of optical centers; lens tint; and, when applicable, multifocal type and placement of multifocal.

(b) Contact Lenses Prefit

- (1) Prefitting record shall include: date of client visit; doctor's written prescription; doctor's keratometric measures if such measures are provided, and such other measures or observations which are properly within the optician's scope of practice as defined by Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-139;
- (2) Any information which would contraindicate the fitting of contact lenses;
- (3) The date of the examining doctor's prescription;
- (4) A prefitting biomicroscopic record of the external eye made by the doctor, if such is provided; and
- (5) Any notice provided to the client regarding the length of time after which the prescription will not be refilled.

(c) Contact Lens Dispensing

Records on the dispensing of contact lenses shall include:

- (1) All particular lens parameters including manufacturer;
- (2) Date of client instruction in handling and hygiene;
- (3) Visual acuity recorded with dispensed contact lenses as obtained by use of a standardized snellen-type chart;
- (4) If performed, a summary of observations of the physical relationship between dispensed contact lens and cornea, including, but not limited to, biomicroscopic observations;
- (5) A recommended wearing schedule; and
- (6) A summary of recommended follow-up

(d) Contact Lens Follow-up

Records of visits subsequent to the actual dispensing of contact lenses shall include:

- (1) Date of each visit;
- (2) Client's current wearing schedule;
- (3) Visual acuity recorded with dispensed contact lenses, obtained by use of a standardized snellen-type chart;
- (4) Date of next recommended visit; and
- (5) A description of any perceived changes in visual acuity or obvious anomalies, and a record of any report made to the client or prescribing doctor.

Statement of Purpose: These regulations define what types of information must be kept as a part of an Optician's routine records for each client seen, to ensure that minimum basic data are collected and retained when optical goods are fitted to patients.

REGULATIONS OF CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES OPTICIANS

Section 20-141-1. Experience in the producing and mounting of ophthalmic lenses. Experience in producing and mounting ophthalmic glasses is a combination of education and skill in both mechanical functions and technical knowledge. Thus, such experience refers to theoretical knowledge, education and practical training, skill and proficiency in all functions related to the required mechanical and technical knowledge pertaining to the producing and reproducing of ophthalmic lenses and kindred products to given formulas. The producing and mounting of ophthalmic glasses is defined as the operations of grinding, fining, polishing, truing, molding, casting or other surfacing processes, as well as the operations of edging, cutting, forming, shaping, positioning, fastening and molding or other mounting processes.

Section 20-141-2. Experience in the fitting of ophthalmic lenses to the eyes by mechanical manipulation. Experience in the fitting of ophthalmic lenses by mechanical manipulation, molding technique or other related functions is a combination of education and skill in both the mechanical functions and technical knowledge. Thus, such experience refers to theoretical knowledge, education and practical training, skill and proficiency in all functions related to the required mechanical and technical knowledge pertaining to the theory and practice of fitting, adapting and designing of optical glasses from given formulas or kindred products directly to the ultimate wearer by mechanical manipulation, molding techniques or other related functions. The fitting, adapting and designing of ophthalmic glasses is defined as comprising the techniques and art of forming, shaping, bending, adjusting and molding or other fitting processes as they may be required and the scientific and technical interpretation of ophthalmic prescriptions into a correctly constructed therapeutic device as an optician's personal function of dispensing optical glasses directly to the person of the ultimate wearer; as well as the measuring, fitting and adapting of prostheses and the molding, casting or fitting of contact lenses.

Section 20-141-4. Equipment for opticians. In order to protect the public health and safety, each applicant being issued an optical license shall have in his place of business and at his disposal the following equipment in order to complete the requirements for such license: (1) A complete set of neutralizing lenses or mechanical instrument for the measurement of focus power, in which case such instrument should bear a maximum tolerance of accuracy of .06; (2) lens-centering device; (3) lens measure; (4) thickness caliper; (5) equipment for accurately measuring pupillary distance.

Section 20-141-6. Defining optical glasses and eyeglasses. Optical glasses to aid vision are the means for correcting eyesight defects when worn as complete glasses, or when adapted to the ultimate wearer or consumer, of which the component parts, i.e. lenses and supporting materials, are produced or reproduced to individual specific formulas; and which given formulas include the Rx for foci, lens power, the specifications or mold for the form, size, shape and structure of the lens and/or of the supporting material and indications for the proper placement for fitting to the eyes and for their fitted application, such as the centers, the plane and the angle. Such optical glasses are referred to as optical glasses from given formulas, ophthalmic glasses or instruments from given formulas and eyeglasses.

Section 20-141-7. Defining kindred products and optical merchandise. Kindred products of optical glasses generally are complete eyeglasses principally worn as an aid to vision and sold as optical stock-in-trade articles of merchandise, i.e., plano safety glasses, plano welding goggles and similar optical goods which are largely produced by grinding optical glass or substitutes therefor for the optical control of light or protection without causing light deviation and in so doing conform only to general formulas instead of given formulas and which may be utilized by any rather than specific individuals.

Section 20-141-8. Defining optical instruments to aid vision. "Other instruments to aid vision" are optical glasses and ophthalmic instruments as aids to vision, which are lenses, therapeutic devices or other appliances

from given formulas intended to be used for the aid and correction of visual or ocular anomalies of the eye; and include optical systems of lenses or combination of lenses assembled into a supporting structure which, when viewed through, are aids to vision, and which are sold as optical stock-in-trade articles of merchandise, i.e., magnifiers, readers, microscopes, field glasses, binoculars, telescopes, transits or articles of similar type which are largely produced by optically grinding glass to formulas based upon the laws of optics.

Section 20-141-10. Contact lenses-definition. The sale of contact lenses in the state of Connecticut is an inclusion under the provision that optical glasses, instruments and kindred products to aid vision may be sold only by licensed opticians in licensed optical establishments. Contact lenses are tiny, thin oval shaped lenses about the size of a five-cent piece, made of glass or smooth nonirritating plastic. They may be ground to any power to correct any eye defect and are worn under the eyelids.

Section 20-141-10a. Contact lenses-sale and fitting. The sale of contact lenses in the state of Connecticut is included under the provision that optical glasses, instruments and kindred products to aid vision may be sold by licensed opticians in licensed optical establishments. Contact lenses may be fitted by licensed opticians in licensed optical establishments upon prescriptions for contact lenses prescribed by licensed physicians or surgeons or licensed optometrists or in any other location under the direction of a licensed physician or surgeon. This regulation does not apply to physicians or surgeons or certified optometrists exempt under section 20-162 of the general statutes.

Section 20-141-11. Optical license permits. Any establishment under the personal and direct supervision of a licensed optician may be granted permission to sell at retail, dispense or supply to the ultimate wearer prescription glasses and optical instruments from given formulas which are optical aids to vision, instruments, eyeglasses, spectacles, other kindred products and reproduction of the same; to fit, adapt, adjust or bend frames by mechanical manipulations, molding techniques or other related functions, either with or without lenses, to the individual wearer whether the glasses are from prescription or under repair; to use the term "optician" or any synonym; to sell at retail optical goods as merchandise. Any establishment whose optical shop, laboratory, department or processing operations are under the personal and direct supervision of a licensed optician may be granted permission to make, process, produce and reproduce optical prescription glasses and optical instruments from given formulas which are optical aids to vision, instruments, appliances, eyeglasses, spectacles and other kindred products, to mount the same to supporting materials and to perform other related processes of compounding, fabricating or molding.

Section 20-141-12. Optical license selling permit. (a) Any licensed optician or any optical department in any optical establishment, office, department or store conducted under the personal and direct supervision of a licensed optician shall file an application of facts to qualify for an optical license selling permit when requesting permission to sell, dispense or supply to the ultimate wearer optical aids to vision, instruments, eyeglasses, spectacles and other kindred products. Application shall be made annually on forms issued by the commission and shall be sworn to before a proper person authorized to take oaths. All information given the commission of opticians by the applicant shall be considered representative of fact. Such application shall be forwarded to the commission of opticians, together with the required fee.

(b) Any applicant qualifying for the optical license selling permit shall be issued an annual certificate which shall be valid at the one and only address named therein and shall expire on the first day of September of each year. Such permit shall record specified optical goods and enumerate the names of all employed licensed opticians, assistant licensed opticians, mechanical opticians, assistant mechanical opticians and apprentices.

(c) The optical license selling permit shall be prominently displayed in the establishment and at the department where ophthalmic glasses and optical goods are sold, dispensed or supplied or distributed to the public. Each optical establishment, office, store or department, as defined in section 20-141-11, shall require a separate

optical license selling permit at each location at which ophthalmic glasses are sold, dispensed, supplied or distributed to the public.

Section 20-141-17. Dispensing, supplying and distributing to the public. To "dispense or supply" is to prepare, make or furnish as well as to distribute to the public optical glasses or ophthalmic instruments as aids to vision to the ultimate wearer of consumer, or any kindred products of optical glasses, whether or not the act of such dispensing or supplying or distribution is construed as technically involving a sale.

Section 20-141-18. Disassociation of licensed optician from establishment. Immediately upon disassociation or severance of the recorded licensed optician in charge from any establishment for which an optical license permit has been granted, the optical license permit is terminated. A new optical license permit shall be applied for.

Section 20-141-19. Establishment, office, department, store, shop or laboratory. Each individual retail or service unit located at a recorded address is a separate establishment requiring a separate permit; and this is true although such a store or unit is part of an interstate or intrastate chain.

Section 20-141-20. Licensed optician responsible for all establishments for which he is granted an optical license permit. Every licensed optician is required to have an optical license permit for the declared establishment, location or premises where he proposes to act as such licensed optician. A licensed optician is responsible for any optical department, firm or establishment of which he is in charge, being deemed to be in charge of the same only when he is the owner or manager or equal in authority with another similarly licensed optician, and from which he receives his complete or major means of livelihood and to which he gives the major part of his time. Such an optical license permit shall be issued for more than one such optical establishment or location if such licensed optician assumes supervision of other locations or establishments; but in all instances such permits shall include the name of the responsible licensed optician in charge and under whose supervision such establishment or location is being operated, and shall be subject to the provision that such licensed optician transfer such individual license to the location or establishment at which he is functioning and that he is personally responsible for all acts or omissions (by himself or by others under such location) pertaining to the opticians' law and its regulations, under which such establishment or location holds itself open as an optical establishment or department. Both the license of the licensed optician and the optical license permit shall at all times be conspicuously displayed in the place in which such licensed optician practices as an optician.

Section 20-141-21. Standards applying to sun glasses, etc. (1) Sun glasses, goggles, plano safety glasses and plano welding goggles are optical lenses; spectacles, eyeglasses, optical appliances or other kindred products are optical glasses to aid vision and (2) in the interest of public health and safety such optical products shall be in accordance with standards for quality, the specifications for which shall govern the glass or other material used for glasses in order that they shall not produce distortion in excess of the allowable tolerances, the required degree of transparency for the transmission of light and the certification that such standard has been complied with.

Section 20-141-22. Standard of quality for sun glasses and goggles sold at retail. (a) All sun glasses and goggles sold at retail in the state of Connecticut shall meet the following standard and shall bear certification by the manufacturer, wholesaler or distributor. The sun glasses and goggles regulated by this standard are optical glasses or kindred products or other instruments to aid vision by the control of light other than prescription lenses, visors and eye shades. These specifications for the Connecticut sun glass standard apply to any material, whether ground and polished, blown, drawn or dropped, or whether curved or flat, and do not restrict the price of the merchandise sold nor its make or type of manufacture.

(b) (1) The lenses shall be of a quality suitable for optical products, i.e., free from striae, bubbles, seeds or other defects visible to the unaided eye. Both optical surfaces of the lenses shall be well polished and free from visible surface defects, such as scratches, waves and grayness. (2) Surfaces of lenses shall be essentially parallel or of compensated curvatures; prismatic effect shall not exceed one-eighth prism diopter. (3) Lenses shall be essentially without focal power; there shall not be more than one-sixteenth diopter of power in any meridian. The difference in power between any two meridians shall not exceed one-sixteenth diopter. (4) Lenses shall be substantially matched in color and density.

(c) Lenses shall be treated for prismatic effect and focal power by any recognized optical method which provides the degree of accuracy indicated by these specifications.

(d) Sun glasses and goggles sold at retail in the state of Connecticut shall bear a self-certifying label, securely attached directly to the article, certifying that the quality conforms to all requirements and tests of the Connecticut sun glass standard, which certification shall bear the certifier's name or identification mark registered with the commission of opticians. The commission of opticians will permit manufacturers, wholesalers or distributors to certify to the above, provided the labels shall bear either of the following printed inscriptions: (1) "Certified by (manufacturer's, wholesaler's or distributor's identification) Conn. S.G. Standard-40." (2) "Certified (manufacturer's, wholesaler's or distributor's identification) Nat'l. Std. CS78-39 Ground and Polished." The commission of opticians will permit the holders or optical license selling permits or optical license processing permits to certify to the above, provided the labels shall bear the following inscription: "Certified by (OLsP number or OLpP number) Conn. S.G. Standard-40."

Section 20-141-25. Periods of apprenticeship. (a) The computation of any period of apprenticeship as an optical apprentice shall commence at the date of registration, provided such apprentice is employed in the state of Connecticut and in an establishment which has a licensed optical department which is capable of giving, and where the opportunity is available for such apprentice to obtain, practical experience, skill and optical knowledge as required and, further, is under the supervision of a licensed optician or a mechanical optician.

(b) Any person who registers with the commission as is required by law for the purpose of producing or reproducing ophthalmic lenses and similar products or mounting the same to supporting materials or fitting the same by mechanical manipulations, molding techniques or other related functions and is employed in an establishment which does not comply with the conditions set forth in subsection (a) shall be recorded but shall not have such period accredited as time spent to qualify for examination except after satisfactory proof has been furnished the commission that such service is satisfactory, in which circumstances partial credit may commence at the date of registration as hereinafter set forth.

(c) Any person, upon application, may be registered by the commission as an optical apprentice even though the place of employment has only a partial opportunity available for an apprentice to obtain practical experience, skill and optical knowledge required in order to qualify for examination. Under this condition a limited apprenticeship will result and such registered apprentice may obtain a part of the credit required by acquiring experience, skill and optical knowledge in surfacing, edging, benchwork or fitting and adjusting, either separately or in combinations, which, however, will not be all of the functions of producing and reproducing optical prescription glasses, mounting the same to supporting materials and fitting and adjusting the same to the ultimate wearer. Such a limited apprenticeship would require a subsequent application in order to register for such further opportunity as was not previously available in order to complete the required credit to qualify for examination.

Section 20-141-31. Exemption of certified optometrists. The exemption for optometrists is personal only to such certified optometrists as individuals, and such exemption does not extend to any other person, firm, corporation or any other kind of an establishment with which such certified optometrists may be associated.

OPTICIAN CONTINUING EDUCATION REGULATIONS

Sec. 20-146(c)-1. Definitions. For the purposes of sections 20-146(c)-1 to 20-146(c)-7, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies:

- (1) “Department” means the Department of Public Health.
- (2) “Licensee” means an optician licensed pursuant to Section 20-146 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- (3) “License renewal due date” means the last day of the month of the licensee’s date of birth.
- (4) “Registration period” means the one-year period during which a license has been renewed in accordance with Section 19a-88 of the Connecticut General Statutes and is current and valid.
- (5) “Provider” means the individual educator or sponsor conducting a continuing education activity.
- (6) “Participant” means a licensee who successfully completes a continuing education activity.
- (7) “Contact hour” means a minimum of fifty minutes of continuing education activity.
- (8) “Certificate of completion” means a document issued to a participant by a provider which certifies that the participant has successfully completed a continuing education activity.
- (9) “Active Practice” means the treatment in Connecticut of one or more patients by a licensee during any given registration period.

Sec. 20-146(c)-2. Number of credits required.

- (a) Each licensee applying for license renewal shall have completed a minimum of seven contact hours of qualifying continuing education for opticians during the preceding registration period.
- (b) Continuing education contact hours completed in one registration period shall not carry over to a subsequent registration period.
- (c) Successful completion of an entire continuing education activity shall be required for award of any continuing education contact hours.

Sec. 20-146(c)-3 Basic requirements for qualifying continuing education activities.

- (a) Continuing education activities shall meet the following requirements:
 - (1) Providers are approved by the American Board of Opticianry, the National Contact Lens Examiners or other nationally recognized organization approved by the department after consultation with the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians.
 - (2) the activity involves face-to-face didactic instruction.
 - (3) the provider implements a mechanism to monitor and document physical attendance at such instruction.
 - (4) the provider retains written records for a period of three years from the participant’s actual successful completion of the activity, including but not limited to: content description; instructor; date of activity; location of activity; list of participants; participant’s evaluation of instruction presented; and number of contact hours.
 - (5) the provider issues a certificate of completion after the participant’s successful completion of the activity. Such certificate shall include the participant’s name, provider’s name, title or subject area of the activity, date and location of attendance, and number of contact hours completed.
- (b) Activities which do not qualify for award of contact hours include: professional organizational business meetings; speeches delivered at luncheons or banquets; reading of books, articles, or professional journals; home study courses, correspondence courses, and other mechanisms of self instruction; and audio-visual materials, except when the latter is used as a component of a qualifying continuing education activity identified in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 20-146(c)-4 Content areas for qualifying continuing education activities.

- (a) Subject matter for qualifying continued education activities shall reflect the scope of practice authorized under Chapter 381 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Only those continued education activities which provide significant theoretical or practical content directly related to the clinical practice of opticianry shall qualify to meet the requirements of sections 20-146(c)-2 to 20-146(c)-4, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
- (b) Continued education activity that provides content related to organization and design of optical stores, practice development, business management or marketing, investments or financial management, personnel management, personal health or development, and similar topics of professional concern, shall be limited to not more than one contact hour in contact lens nor one contact hour in eyewear in any one registration period.

Sec. 20-146(c)-5 Record retention by licensees.

- (a) Each licensee shall obtain a certificate of completion from the provider of continuing education activities successfully completed. Each licensee shall maintain, for continuing education activities specified in subsection 20-146(c)-4(a) of these regulations, written documentation of completion. Certificates of completion shall be retained by the licensee for a minimum of three years following the license renewal due date for which the activity satisfies license renewal requirements.
- (b) The department may inspect such licensee records as it deems necessary. Certificates of completion shall be submitted by the licensee to the department only upon the department's request. Such records shall be submitted to the department by the licensee within 45 days of the department's request.
- (c) A licensee who fails to comply with the continuing education requirements of these regulations may be subject to disciplinary action, pursuant to section 20-154 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Sec. 20-146(c)-6. Exemptions from and waiver of the continuing education requirements.

- (a) A licensee applying for license renewal for the first time in Connecticut shall be exempt from continuing education requirements.
- (b) A licensee who is not engaged in active practice during a given continuing education registration period shall be exempt from continuing education requirements on submission, prior to the expiration of the continuing education registration period, of a notarized application on a form provided by the department. The application shall contain the statement that the licensee shall not engage in active practice until the licensee has shown proof of completion of requirements specified in sections 20-146(c)-2 to 20-146(c)-4, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Sec. 20-146(c)-7. Requirements for return to active practice following exemption from continuing education requirements.

- (a) A licensee who has been exempt, pursuant to subsection (b) of section 20-146(c)-6 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, shall submit to the department evidence of successful completion of seven contact hours of continuing education within six months after returning to active practice.

Statement of Purpose: To establish mandatory continuing education requirements for persons licensed as opticians.