DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATION 2100 Board of Examiners in Optometry

Statutory Authority: 24 **Del.C.** §2104(a)(1); 24 **DE Admin. Code** 2100

FINAL

ORDER

After due notice in the *Register of Regulations* and two Delaware newspapers, a public hearing was held on April 19, 2007 at a scheduled meeting of the Delaware Board of Examiners in Optometry to receive comments regarding the proposed changes to its Regulation 10.0 of its rules and regulations to allow for online renewal of licenses and online attestation of completion of continuing education ("CE") and provide for a post-renewal audit. In addition, the proposed changes revise the continuing education deadline to correspond with the license renewal deadline, so that the required CE's must be completed before June 30 of any odd numbered year, the same date that licenses must be renewed. These proposed changes were published in the Register of Regulations, Vol. 10, Issue 9, March 1, 2007.

The Board's authority to promulgate rules and regulations implementing or clarifying specific sections of Chapter 26 is set forth in 24 Del.C. §2104(1).

Summary of the Evidence and Information Submitted

No written comments were received. No public comments were received at the hearing.

Findings of Fact With Respect to the Evidence and Information Submitted

The Board carefully reviewed and considered the proposed changes to its rules and regulations. The Board has the authority to determine the means and timing of its continuing education audits and the terms during which continuing education must be earned. Under the new rules, the Board will continue to conduct random audits of licensees to ensure they are in compliance, and it will address continuing education and other deficiencies as appropriate under the circumstances of each individual case. The proposed changes allow licensees to renew their licenses online at any time of day. Although licensees are no longer required to submit continuing education documentation to the Division prior to license renewal, licensees must continue to keep the required records of their continuing education credits. This information will be necessary for verification of a licensee's continuing education attestation if he or she is selected for audit.

In summary, the Board finds that the public was given notice and an opportunity to provide the Board with comments in writing and by testimony at the public hearing on the proposed amendments to Board Regulation 10.0. The Board received no written or oral comments. Pursuant to 24 **Del.C.** §2104(1) the Board has statutory authority to promulgate regulations implementing and clarifying specific statutory sections of its statute. The amendments to these Rules carry out the provisions of 24 **Del.C.** §§2112 and 2121 with regard to license renewal and continuing education requirements.

Decision and Effective Date

The Board hereby adopts the changes to its rules and regulations to be effective 10 days following publication of this Order in the Register of Regulations.

Text and Citation

The text of the rules and regulations remain as published in *Register of Regulations*, Vol. 10, Issue 9, March 1, 2007. The revised rules and regulations are attached hereto.

SO ORDERED this Nineteenth day of April, 2007.

DELAWARE BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY Sonja P. Biddle, O.D., President Nicole Anderson-Easton, Public Member Ruth Banta, Public Member Charles Simon, O.D.

2100 Board of Examiners in Optometry

1.0 Definitions

"Dispensing" The practice of optometry shall include the dispensing of contact lenses. "Dispensing" shall be defined as: "Contact lens dispensing" means the fabrication, ordering, mechanical adjustment, dispensing, sale and delivery to the consumer of contact lenses. Contact lenses must be dispensed in accordance with a written contact lens prescription from a licensed physician or optometrist which includes lens curvature, diameter, power, material, manufacturer and an expiration date not to exceed one year, together with appropriate instructions for the care and handling of the lenses. The term does not include the taking of any measurements of the eye or the cornea and evaluating the physical fit of the contact lenses.

"Duly Licensed" For purposes of 24 Del.C. §2106(a) and these regulations, the term "Duly Licensed" shall be defined as: a person who satisfies the applicable requirements under 24 Del.C. §§2107, 2108, 2110 and 2111 (or alternatively §2109 and §2111), and who has been issued a license in good standing in accordance with §2112. A person holding a valid temporary license shall not be deemed to be duly licensed for purposes of 24 Del.C. Ch. 21 and these regulations, and may only engage in the practice of optometry as outlined in §2110 and Section 3.0 of these regulations.

4 DE Reg. 669 (10/01/00)

2.0 Qualifications and Examinations

- 2.1 Every candidate for registration must meet the following qualifications:
- 2.1.1 Have received a degree of "Doctor of Optometry" from a legally incorporated and accredited optometric college or school which has been approved by the appropriate accrediting body of the American Optometric Association.
 - 2.1.2 Pass the substantive and clinical examinations required by 2.2 of these regulations.
- 2.1.3 Complete the internship required by 24 **Del.C.** §2110 and Section 3 of these regulations. An individual is duly licensed after completing the internship requirement as well as all the other requirements in 24 **Del.C.** §2107 of this statute. (For reciprocal applicants, see Section 4.0 of these regulations.)
- 2.1.4 All applicants for therapeutic licensure must be CPR certified for both children and adults. All therapeutic optometrists must keep their CPR certification for both children and adults current.
- 2.1.5 Has not engaged in conduct that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action, and has no unresolved disciplinary proceedings pending in this or any other jurisdiction. It shall be the responsibility of the candidate to submit to the Board a certified statement of good standing from each jurisdiction where he/she is currently or has been previously licensed.
- 2.2 Every candidate shall pass, at a score determined by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, the substantive and clinical portions of the examination given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry. The clinical examination given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry may be taken as part of the National Board Examination or as a separate clinical skills and/or TMOD examination given by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry as the State Board shall designate.

3.0 Internship

- 3.1 An internship is a course of study in which applicants receive part of their clinical training in a Board approved private practice setting in Delaware, or other Board approved setting, under the supervision of a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist. An active, licensed Optometrist or Ophthalmologist may act as a supervisor. Any applicant's participation in such an internship program must be approved by the Board and is subject to the following terms and conditions:
- 3.1.1 A letter from the practitioner with whom the applicant will be interning stating the goals, duties and the number of hours he/she will be working. If the applicant is not doing his/her internship with a

therapeutically certified optometrist or ophthalmologist, he/she must also complete an additional one hundred (100) hours of clinical internship with a therapeutically certified Optometrist, Medical doctor or Osteopathic physician.

- 3.1.2 Each applicant who will be participating in the internship program must provide the name and address of the supervisor and the dates of the internship for approval by the Board before the internship may begin provided that, in the event an applicant has made a good faith effort to submit all necessary licensure materials for approval of the internship, and in the event that the Board is unable to meet to review said licensure materials due to the absence of a sufficient number of statutorily appointed Board members, as occurred in July-August, 2003, the Board may approve said internship starting as of the date when the applicant has submitted all licensure materials.
- 3.1.3 A letter must be received by the Board from the supervisor verifying the completion of the internship.
- 3.1.4 For purposes of this Section and 29 **Del.C.** §2110, the term "duration" shall be defined as "a period of no less than six (6) months and no greater than the period ending on the date of the next Board meeting following the end of the six (6) month period." No intern may practice on a temporary license beyond the duration of the internship.
- 3.2 Subject to the approval requirements stated above, a candidate's internship requirements may be satisfied while the candidate is a member of the Armed Forces if he/she:
- 3.2.1 Functions as a fully credentialed therapeutically certified optometric practitioner; and (for purposes of this Section equivalent to the Air Force regulations).
 - 3.2.2 Performs his optometric duties on a full-time basis in a completely equipped eye clinic.
 - 3.3 Full-time: minimum of 35 hours per week.
- 3.4 All supervisors must supervise the interns on a one-to-one basis whenever an applicant performs a task which constitutes the practice of optometry. No supervisor may be a supervisor for more than one intern, or student extern, during the period of the internship or externship.
- 3.5 All acts which constitute the practice of optometry under 24 **Del.C.** §2101(a) may be performed by the intern only under the following conditions:
- 3.5.1 The supervisor shall be on the premises and immediately available for supervision at all times;
- 3.5.2 All intern evaluations of any patient shall be reviewed by the supervisor prior to final determination of the patient's case before the patient leaves the premises; and
 - 3.5.3 A supervisor shall at all times effectively supervise and direct the intern.
- 3.6 A violation of any of the conditions enumerated in this rule may be grounds for the Board to revoke their approval of an internship program. The Board may also revoke its approval of an internship program if it determines that either the supervising optometrist or the intern has engaged in any conduct described by 24 **Del.C.** §2113(a). Furthermore, any violation of the terms of this rule by a supervising optometrist who is a licensed optometrist shall be considered unprofessional conduct and a violation of 24 **Del.C.** §2113(a)(7).

2 DE Reg 85 (05/01/99)

7 DE Reg. 912 (01/01/04)

8 DE Reg. 536 (10/01/04)

8 DE Reg. 1697 (6/01/05)

4.0 Reciprocity

- 4.1 The Board shall waive the internship requirement for an applicant holding a valid license to practice optometry, issued by another jurisdiction, and who has practiced for a minimum of five years in such other jurisdiction with standards of licensure which are equal to or greater than those of 24 **Del.C.** Ch. 21 and grant a license by reciprocity to such applicant. The five years of practice experience must be obtained in state(s) with licensure standards at least equal to those of Delaware.
- 4.2 Applicants from jurisdictions which have the same basic qualifications for licensure as this State, but do not have essentially comparable or higher standards to qualify for 'therapeutic' licensing, shall be required to meet the conditions of subsections (a) and (b), 24 **Del.C.** §2108.
- 4.3 The applicant shall include, as part of the application, copies of state licensing and/or practice statutes and regulations pertaining to the practice of Optometry for each jurisdiction through which he/she is seeking reciprocity or claiming qualifying practice experience.

- 4.4 "Standards of licensure," as used in 24 **Del.C.** §2109, shall refer to the qualifications of applicants set forth at §2107.
- The "standards to qualify for 'therapeutic' licensing," as used in 24 Del.C. §2109 with regard to therapeutic reciprocity, shall refer to the standards of diagnostic and therapeutic practice as set forth in 24 Del.C. §2101(b).
- An applicant shall not be licensed by reciprocity as a Delaware therapeutically certified optometrist 4.6 unless:
- He/she demonstrates that the state in which he/she is therapeutically certified allows the 4.6.1 use and prescription of diagnostic and therapeutic drugs which is at least equivalent to that permitted under a Delaware therapeutic optometrist license as set forth in §2101(b), OR
 - He/she has met the requirements of §2108(a) and (b) and Rule 11.0.

4 DE Reg. 669 (10/01/00)

5.0 Use of Diagnostic Drugs

- Licensees who have been duly authorized by the Board may, for diagnostic purposes only, make use of the following classes of topical ophthalmic drugs: (1) anesthetics, (2) mydriatics, (3) cycloplegics, and (4) miotics; provided, however, that any such authorization by the Board shall not be construed as authorizing any licensee to dispense or issue a prescription for diagnostic drugs.
- Authorization by the Board under this regulation shall be evidenced by an appropriate designation 5.2 on the certificate of registration and license.
- The provisions of Section 5.1 shall not preclude a licensee from using: ancillary diagnostic agents 5.3 including, but not limited to dyes, schirmer strips, etc.

6.0 Use of Therapeutic Drugs

- Therapeutically certified optometrists may use and/or prescribe the following pharmaceutical 6.1 agents for the treatment of ocular diseases and conditions:
 - Topical and oral administration: 6.1.1
 - 6.1.1.1 Antihistamines and decongestants
 - 6.1.1.2 Antiglaucoma
 - Analgesics (non-controlled) 6.1.1.3
 - Antibiotics 6.1.1.4
 - 6.1.2 Topical administration only:
 - 6.1.2.1 Autonomics
 - 6.1.2.2 Anesthetics
 - 6.1.2.3 Anti-infectives, including antivirals and antiparasitics
 - 6.1.2.4 Anti-inflammatories
- 6.2 Authorization by the Board under this regulation shall be evidenced by an appropriate designation on the certificate of registration and license.

7.0 Minimum Standards of Practice

- 7.1 Equipment
 - 7.1.1 Acuity chart
 - 7.1.2 Opthalmoscope

7.1.2.1

Direct

7.1.2.2

Indirect

- 7.1.3 Keratometer
- 7.1.4 Biomicroscope
- 7.1.5 Tonometer
- 7.1.6 Gonioscope
- 7.1.7 Access to Visual Field
- 7.1.8 Access to Retinal Camera
- 7.1.9 Phoropter
- 7.2 **Examination and Treatment**
 - 7.2.1 General Examination:

	7.2.1.1	Case history
	7.2.1.2	Acuity measure
	7.2.1.3	Internal tissue health evaluation
	7.2.1.4	External tissue health evaluation
	7.2.1.5	Refraction
	7.2.1.6	Tonometry
	7.2.1.7	Visual fields (in appropriate cases)
	7.2.1.8	Retinal photos (in appropriate cases)
	7.2.1.9	Treatment, recommendations and directions to the patients, including
prescriptions		
	7.2.1.10	Name of attending optometrist
7.2.2	During a contact	ct lens examination:
	7.2.2.1	Assessment of corneal curvature
	7.2.2.2	Acuity through the lens
	7.2.2.3	Directions for the care and handling of lenses and an explanation of the
implications of contact	enses with regar	rd to eye health and vision
	7.2.2.4	Name of attending optometrist
	7.2.2.5	Assessment of contact lens fit
7.2.3	During a follow	-up contact lens examination:
	7.2.3.1	Assessment of fit of lens
	7.2.3.2	Acuity through the lens
	7.2.3.3	Name of attending optometrist
	7.2.3.4	Ocular health assessment

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7.3 A complete record of examinations and treatment shall be kept in a current manner.

8.0 Ethics

8.1 It shall be the ideal, the resolve and the duty of all licensees to:

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- 8.1.1 Keep the visual welfare of the patient uppermost at all times.
- 8.1.2 Promote in every possible way, better care of the visual needs of mankind.
- 8.1.3 Enhance continuously their educational and technical proficiency to the end that their patients shall receive the benefits of all acknowledged improvements in vision and eye care.
 - 8.1.4 See that no person shall lack for visual care, regardless of his financial status.
- 8.1.5 Advise the patient whenever consultation with an optometric colleague or reference for other professional care seems advisable.
- 8.1.6 Hold in professional confidence all information concerning a patient and use such data only for the benefit of the patient.
 - 8.1.7 Conduct themselves as exemplary citizens.
- 8.1.8 Maintain their offices and their practices in keeping with current professional standards of care.
- 8.1.9 Promote and maintain cordial and unselfish relations with members of their own profession and other professionals for the exchange of information to the advantage of mankind.
- 8.1.10 Maintain adequate records on each patient for a period of not less than five years from the date of the most recent service rendered.
- 8.2 A licensee must honor a patient's request to forward the patient's complete prescription and ophthalmic or contact lens specification to another licensed physician of medicine, osteopath, optometrist, or a nationally registered contact lens technician working under the direct supervision of an optometrist, ophthalmologist or osteopathic physician, if all financial obligations to the licensee have been satisfied. It shall be the obligation of a licensee to tender to a patient upon request his/her final prescription for ophthalmic lenses or contact lens(es) specification, if all financial obligations to the licensee have been satisfied. For purposes of this section, a final prescription or specification results when a patient is released to routine follow-up care. No licensee shall be required to tender a contact lens prescription beyond one (1) year from the date the contact lens(es) were dispensed.
- 8.3 It shall be considered unlawful for a licensee to delegate to a lay individual, whether an employee or not, any act or duty which would require, on the part of such individual, professional judgment. The fitting of

contact lenses, tonometry, refraction, treatment of eye disease, low vision and vision therapy, etc. shall not be so delegated unless under the direct supervision of the licensee.

- 8.4 No licensee shall do anything inconsistent with the professional standards of the optometric and allied health professions.
- 8.5 No licensee shall use unethical, misleading or unprofessional advertising methods, including, but not limited to: baiting patients to purchase materials in exchange for free or reduced fees for professional services.
- 8.6 No licensee when using the doctor title shall qualify it in any other way than by use of the word "optometrist". He/she may, however, when not using the prefix, use after his/her name the "O.D." degree designation, consistent with other provisions of 24 **Del.C.** Ch. 21.
- 8.7 No licensee shall practice in or on premises where any materials, other than those necessary to render his professional services, are dispensed to the public.
- 8.8 No licensee shall locate in a merchandising store or practice his profession among the public as the agent, employee or servant of, or in conjunction with either directly or indirectly, any merchandising firm, corporation, lay firm or unlicensed individual.
- 8.9 No licensee shall practice his profession in conjunction with, or as an agent or employee of an ophthalmic merchandising business (commonly known as "opticians") either directly or indirectly in any manner. Nor shall any licensee use any name other than the name recorded in the files of the State Board for his optometric registration and licensure.
- 8.10 Corporations, except those allowed under 8 **Del.C.** Ch. 6, lay firms and unlicensed individuals are prohibited from the practice of optometry directly or indirectly and from employing, either directly or indirectly, registered and licensed optometrists to examine the eyes of their patients. Licensees so employed will be considered guilty of unprofessional conduct, and in violation of 24 **Del.C.** §2113(a)(3) and (6).
- 8.11 No licensee shall hold himself forth in such a way as to carry the slightest intimation of having superior qualifications or being superior to other optometrists, unless he is qualified by a specialty board approved by the State Board.
- 8.12 No licensee holding an official position in any optometric organization shall use such position for advertising purposes or for self-aggrandizement.
- 8.13 Since the law states that a certificate must be displayed in every office where the profession of optometry is practiced, and since no certificate for branch offices has previously been issued, the State Board shall issue branch office certificates with the words "Branch Office" thereon emblazoned under the registry number, with the certificate being a duplicate of that originally issued.
- 8.14 A violation of any of the provisions of these regulations will be considered to be unprofessional conduct.

9.0 Hearings

- 9.1 All complaints shall be referred to the Division of Professional Regulation for investigation and a contact person from the Board will be appointed at the next meeting.
 - 9.2 Hearings are conducted in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act.

10.0Continuing Education Requirements

- 10.1 All persons licensed to practice Optometry in the State of Delaware shall be required to acquire 12 hours of continuing education every two years. All therapeutic licensed optometrists shall be required to acquire an additional 12 hours of therapeutics and management of ocular disease and keep their CPR certification for both children and adults current. No practice management courses will be accepted.
 - 10.2 These continuing optometric education requirements are necessary for licensure every two years.
 - 10.3 Licensees will be required to comply before May 1 of odd numbered years.
- 10.4 It shall be the responsibility of the candidate for relicensure to submit to the appropriate State of Delaware agency evidence of his/her compliance with these requirements. The appropriate state agency shall notify the candidate at least 30 days in advance of the need to renew his/her license, and shall request that the candidate submit evidence of compliance with the continuing education requirements stated herein, along with other fees and documents required. Failure to be notified by such agency shall not relieve licensee from this obligation.
 - 10.5 Self-Reported Study

10.5.1 Non-therapeutic - Of the 12 hours biennial requirement for non-therapeutic licensees, a maximum of 2 hours may be fulfilled by self-reported study.

10.5.2 Therapeutic - Of the 24 hours biennial requirement for therapeutic licensees, a maximum of 4 hours may be fulfilled by self-reported study.

10.5.3 Self-reported study may include:

10.5.3.1 Reading of Optometric journals

10.5.3.2 Optometric tape journals

10.5.3.3 Optometric audiovisual material

10.5.3.4 Other materials given prior approval by the Board.

Proof of completion from the sponsoring agency is required for credit.

- 10.6 Any new licensee shall be required to complete continuing education equivalent to one hour for each month between the date of licensure and the biennial renewal date. The first twelve (12) hours of pro-rated continuing education must be in the treatment and management of ocular disease.
- 10.7 Continuing Education courses given by the following organizations will receive credit. Meetings of (Scientific Session Portion Only)
 - 10.7.1 American Optometric Association
 - 10.7.2 Delaware Optometric Association
 - 10.7.3 American Academy of Optometry
 - 10.7.4 Recognized state regional or national optometric societies
 - 10.7.5 Schools and colleges of Optometry
 - 10.7.6 Meetings of other organizations as may be approved by the Board.
 - 10.7.7 COPE-approved courses (with the exception of Practice Management courses)
- 10.8 Failure to Comply. When the State Board of Examiners in Optometry deems someone to be deficient in continuing education requirements, the license will be revoked. In the event that any optometrist licensed in this State fails to meet continuing education requirements, his or her license shall be revoked, except when proven hardship makes compliance impossible. The Board shall reinstate such license upon presentation of satisfactory evidence of successful completion of continuing education requirements and upon payment of all fees due.

10.9 Licensure-Renewal

10.9.1 All licenses are renewed biennially (every 2 years). A licensee may have his/her license renewed by submitting a renewal application to the Board by the renewal date and upon payment of the renewal fee prescribed by the Division of Professional Regulation along with evidence of completion of continuing education requirements. The failure of the Board to give, or the failure of the licensee to receive, notice of the expiration date of a license shall not prevent the license from becoming invalid after its expiration date.

10.9.2 Any licensee who fails to renew his/her license by the renewal date may still renew his/her license during the one (1) year period immediately following the renewal date provided the licensee pay a late fee in addition to the prescribed renewal fee.

10.9.3 Any licensee who intends not to renew his/her license because he/she retired from practice or has ceased practice in the State of Delaware, shall so indicate such reason(s) on the renewal application. Failure to do so will result in the Board taking mandatory action to revoke the license.

10.10 Exemptions

An exemption may be granted to any optometrist who can demonstrate to the Board an acceptable cause as to why he/she should be relieved of this obligation. Exemptions will be granted only in unusual or extraordinary circumstances. Licensees must petition the Board for exemptions. Should the Board deny the request, the licensee must complete the requirements. Examples of circumstances for which the Board might grant exemptions include prolonged illness, extended absence from the country, etc.

10.1 Hours Required

10.1.1 Beginning in 2007, the required CE's shall be completed no later than June 30 of every odd-numbered year. During the 2007 transition period, CE's earned between May 1, 2007 and June 30, 2007 may be used to satisfy the CE requirement for either the licensing period ending June 30, 2007 or the licensing period ending June 30, 2009, but not both.

<u>10.1.2</u> All non-therapeutically-licensed optometrists shall acquire 12 hours of continuing education (CE) during each biennial licensure period.

10.1.3 All therapeutically-licensed optometrists shall acquire 24 hours of continuing education

during each biennial licensure period. Twelve of those 24 hours must be comprised of education in the areas of therapeutics and management of ocular disease. All therapeutically-licensed optometrists must also maintain current CPR certifications for both children and adults throughout the licensure period.

- 10.1.4 Any new licensee shall be required to complete continuing education equivalent to one hour for each month between the date of licensure and the biennial renewal date. The first twelve (12) hours of prorated continuing education must be in the treatment and management of ocular disease.
- 10.1.5 <u>Hardship Exemption. The Board has the power to waive any part of the CE requirement.</u>

 Exemptions to the CE requirement may be granted due to prolonged illness or other incapacity. Application for exemption shall be made in writing to the Board by the applicant for renewal and must be received by the Board prior to the end of the license renewal period.
 - 10.2 Content of Mandatory Continuing Education (CE)
- 10.2.1 No practice management courses will be accepted as satisfying the continuing education requirement.
 - 10.2.2 COPE-Approved Self-Reported Study

10.2.2.1 <u>Non-therapeutically certified licensees - Of the 12 hour biennial requirement for non-therapeutically certified licensees, a maximum of 2 hours may be fulfilled by self-reported study.</u>

10.2.2.2 Therapeutically certified licensees - Of the 24 hour biennial requirement for therapeutically certified licensees, a maximum of 4 hours may be fulfilled by self-reported study.

10.2.2.3	Self-repor	eported study may include:	
<u>10.2.2.</u>	<u>3.1 </u>	eading of Optometric journals	
<u>10.2.2.</u>	<u>3.2</u> <u>C</u>	ptometric tape journals	
<u>10.2.2.</u>	3.3 <u>C</u>	ptometric audiovisual material	
<u>10.2.2.</u>	3.4 <u>C</u>	ther materials given prior approval by the Board.	
<u>10.2.2.</u>	<u>3.5</u> P	roof of completion from the sponsoring agency is required for	

credit.

10.2.3 Continuing Education courses given by the following organizations will receive credit. CE credit will be given for the scientific session portion only of any meetings of these organizations:

10.2.3.1 American Optometric Association

10.2.3.2	Delaware Optometric Association
10.2.3.3	American Academy of Optometry
10.2.3.4	Recognized state regional or national optometric societies
10.2.3.5	Schools and colleges of Optometry
10.2.3.6	Meetings of other organizations as may be approved by the Board.
10.2.3.7	COPE-approved courses (with the exception of Practice Management

courses)

- 10.3 Failure to Comply with Continuing Education Requirements. Licensees who fail to comply with the required continuing education requirements by the end of the biennial licensing period may be referred for possible disciplinary action pursuant to Section 2113.
- 10.4 Proof of continuing education is satisfied with an attestation by the licensee that he or she has satisfied the requirements of Rule 10.0.
- <u>10.4.1</u> <u>Attestation may be completed electronically if the renewal is accomplished online. In the alternative, paper renewal documents that contain the attestation of completion may be submitted.</u>
- <u>10.4.2</u> <u>Licensees selected for random audit will be required to supplement the attestation with attendance verification pursuant to Rule 10.5.</u>
 - 10.5 Random audits will be performed by the Board to ensure compliance with the CE requirements.
- 10.5.1 The Board will notify licensees within sixty (60) days after June 30 that they have been selected for audit.
- 10.5.2 <u>Licensees selected for random audit shall be required to submit verification within ten (10) days of receipt of notification of selection for audit.</u>
- 10.5.3 <u>Verification shall include such information necessary for the Board to assess whether the course or other activity meets the CE requirements in Section 10.0, which may include, but is not limited to, the following information:</u>
 - 10.5.3.1 Proof of attendance. While course brochures may be used to verify

contact hours, they are not considered to be acceptable proof for use of verification of course attendance;

<u>10.5.3.2</u>	Date of CE course;
10.5.3.3	Instructor of CE course;
10.5.3.4	Sponsor of CE course;
<u>10.5.3.5</u>	Title of CE course; and
<u>10.5.3.6</u>	Number of hours of CE course; and
10.5.3.7	Report obtained from the Optometric Education

by ARBO.

10.6 Licensees must maintain all proof of continuing education for at least two licensure periods.

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10.7 Licensure--Renewal

10.7.1 The biennial licensure period expires on June 30 of every odd-numbered year. A licensee may have his/her license renewed by submitting a renewal application to the Board by the renewal date and upon payment of the renewal fee prescribed by the Division of Professional Regulation along with an attestation of completion of the continuing education requirements.

10.7.2 Any licensee who fails to renew his/her license by the renewal date may reactivate his/her license during the one (1) year period immediately following the license expiration date provided the licensee pays a late fee in addition to the prescribed renewal fee, submits an application on an appropriate form to the Board and provides proof that he/she completed the required continuing education.

11.0Therapeutic Certification

- 11.1 The examination identified in 24 **Del.C.** §2108(b) is the national examination administered by the Association of Regulatory Boards of Optometry (ARBO) for treatment and management of ocular disease. A copy of the certificate representing passage of the examination must be submitted with the application for therapeutic licensure.
- 11.2 All applicants for therapeutic licensure must be CPR certified for both children and adults. All optometrists must keep their CPR certification for both children and adults current.
- 11.3 For applicants currently licensed in Delaware and applicants for reciprocal licensure pursuant to the requirements of §2108, 40 hours of treatment and management of ocular disease training may be accumulated with a therapeutically certified optometrist, a medical doctor, or an osteopathic doctor. Proof of 40 hours of treatment and management of ocular disease training must be submitted in writing by the supervising doctor. If an applicant's supervisor is a therapeutically certified optometrist practicing in a state other than Delaware, proof of similar therapeutic practice standards in the other state must be submitted.
- 11.4 Applicants must have completed their forty (40) hours of clinical experience within twenty-four (24) months of their initial application for therapeutic licensure. No clinical experience older than 24 months (prior to application) will be accepted for therapeutic certification.
- 11.5 All newly licensed optometrists shall be required to be therapeutically certified. Their six month internship should be done with a therapeutically certified optometrist, M.D. or D.O. However, if a therapeutically certified optometrist, M.D. or D.O. is not available, the intern may do an internship with a non-therapeutically certified optometrist, provided the intern complete an additional 100 hours of clinical experience in the treatment and management of ocular disease supervised by a therapeutically certified optometrist, M.D. or D.O. during their internship.

4 DE Reg. 669 (10/01/00)

12.0Unprofessional Conduct

A violation of any of the provisions of these regulations will be considered to be unprofessional conduct.

13.0Voluntary Treatment Option for Chemically Dependent or Impaired Professionals

- 13.1 If the report is received by the chairperson of the regulatory Board, that chairperson shall immediately notify the Director of Professional Regulation or his/her designate of the report. If the Director of Professional Regulation receives the report, he/she shall immediately notify the chairperson of the regulatory Board, or that chairperson's designate or designates.
- 13.2 The chairperson of the regulatory Board or that chairperson's designate or designates shall, within 7 days of receipt of the report, contact the individual in question and inform him/her in writing of the report, provide the individual written information describing the Voluntary Treatment Option, and give him/her the opportunity to

enter the Voluntary Treatment Option.

- 13.3 In order for the individual to participate in the Voluntary Treatment Option, he/she shall agree to submit to a voluntary drug and alcohol screening and evaluation at a specified laboratory or health care facility. This initial evaluation and screen shall take place within 30 days following notification to the professional by the participating Board chairperson or that chairperson's designate(s).
- 13.4 A regulated professional with chemical dependency or impairment due to addiction to drugs or alcohol may enter into the Voluntary Treatment Option and continue to practice, subject to any limitations on practice the participating Board chairperson or that chairperson's designate or designates or the Director of the Division of Professional Regulation or his/her designate may, in consultation with the treating professional, deem necessary, only if such action will not endanger the public health, welfare or safety, and the regulated professional enters into an agreement with the Director of Professional Regulation or his/her designate and the chairperson of the participating Board or that chairperson's designate for a treatment plan and progresses satisfactorily in such treatment program and complies with all terms of that agreement. Treatment programs may be operated by professional Committees and Associations or other similar professional groups with the approval of the Director of Professional Regulation and the chairperson of the participating Board.
- 13.5 Failure to cooperate fully with the participating Board chairperson or that chairperson's designate or designates or the Director of the Division of Professional Regulation or his/her designate in regard to the Voluntary Treatment Option or to comply with their requests for evaluations and screens may disqualify the regulated professional from the provisions of the Voluntary Treatment Option, and the participating Board chairperson or that chairperson's designate or designates shall cause to be activated an immediate investigation and institution of disciplinary proceedings, if appropriate, as outlined in subsection 13.8 of this section.
- 13.6 The Voluntary Treatment Option may require a regulated professional to enter into an agreement which includes, but is not limited to, the following provisions:
- 13.6.1 Entry of the regulated professional into a treatment program approved by the participating Board. Board approval shall not require that the regulated professional be identified to the Board. Treatment and evaluation functions must be performed by separate agencies to assure an unbiased assessment of the regulated professional's progress.
- 13.6.2 Consent to the treating professional of the approved treatment program to report on the progress of the regulated professional to the chairperson of the participating Board or to that chairperson's designate or designates or to the Director of the Division of Professional Regulation or his/her designate at such intervals as required by the chairperson of the participating Board or that chairperson's designate or designates or the Director of the Division of Professional Regulation or his/her designate, and such person making such report will not be liable when such reports are made in good faith and without malice.
- 13.6.3 Consent of the regulated professional, in accordance with applicable law, to the release of any treatment information from anyone within the approved treatment program.
- 13.6.4 Agreement by the regulated professional to be personally responsible for all costs and charges associated with the Voluntary Treatment Option and treatment program(s). In addition, the Division of Professional Regulation may assess a fee to be paid by the regulated professional to cover administrative costs associated with the Voluntary Treatment Option. The amount of the fee imposed under this subparagraph shall approximate and reasonably reflect the costs necessary to defray the expenses of the participating Board, as well as the proportional expenses incurred by the Division of Professional Regulation in its services on behalf of the Board in addition to the administrative costs associated with the Voluntary Treatment Option.
- 13.6.5 Agreement by the regulated professional that failure to satisfactorily progress in such treatment program shall be reported to the participating Board's chairperson or his/her designate or designates or to the Director of the Division of Professional Regulation or his/her designate by the treating professional who shall be immune from any liability for such reporting made in good faith and without malice.
- 13.6.6 Compliance by the regulated professional with any terms or restrictions placed on professional practice as outlined in the agreement under the Voluntary Treatment Option.
- 13.7 The regulated professional's records of participation in the Voluntary Treatment Option will not reflect disciplinary action and shall not be considered public records open to public inspection. However, the participating Board may consider such records in setting a disciplinary sanction in any future matter in which the regulated professional's chemical dependency or impairment is an issue.
- 13.8 The participating Board's chairperson, his/her designate or designates or the Director of the Division of Professional Regulation or his/her designate may, in consultation with the treating professional at any

time during the Voluntary Treatment Option, restrict the practice of a chemically dependent or impaired professional if such action is deemed necessary to protect the public health, welfare or safety.

- 13.9 If practice is restricted, the regulated professional may apply for unrestricted licensure upon completion of the program.
- 13.10 Failure to enter into such agreement or to comply with the terms and make satisfactory progress in the treatment program shall disqualify the regulated professional from the provisions of the Voluntary Treatment Option, and the participating Board shall be notified and cause to be activated an immediate investigation and disciplinary proceedings as appropriate.
- 13.11 Any person who reports pursuant to this section in good faith and without malice shall be immune from any civil, criminal or disciplinary liability arising from such reports, and shall have his/her confidentiality protected if the matter is handled in a nondisciplinary matter.
- 13.12 Any regulated professional who complies with all of the terms and completes the Voluntary Treatment Option shall have his/her confidentiality protected unless otherwise specified in a participating Board's rules and regulations. In such an instance, the written agreement with the regulated professional shall include the potential for disclosure and specify those to whom such information may be disclosed.

14.0Crimes substantially related to the practice of optometry:

14.1 Conviction of any of the following crimes, or of the attempt to commit or of a conspiracy to commit or conceal or of solicitation to commit any of the following crimes, is deemed to be substantially related to the practice of optometry in the State of Delaware without regard to the place of conviction:

	state of Delaware without regard to the place of conviction.
14.1.1	Aggravated menacing. 11 Del.C. §602 (b).
14.1.2	Reckless endangering in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §604.
14.1.3	Abuse of a pregnant female in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §605.
14.1.4	Abuse of a pregnant female in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §606.
14.1.5	Assault in the third degree. 11 Del.C. §611.
14.1.6	Assault in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §612.
14.1.7	Assault in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §613.
14.1.8	Abuse of a sports official; felony. 11 Del.C. §614.
14.1.9	Assault by abuse or neglect. 11 Del.C. §615.
14.1.10	Terroristic threatening; felony. 11 Del.C. §621.
14.1.11	Unlawfully administering drugs. 11 Del.C. §625.
14.1.12	Unlawfully administering controlled substance or counterfeit substance or narcotic
drugs. 11 Del.C. §626.	
14.1.13	Vehicular assault in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §629.
14.1.14	Vehicular homicide in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §630.
14.1.15	Vehicular homicide in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §630A.
14.1.16	Criminally negligent homicide. 11 Del.C. §631.
14.1.17	Manslaughter. 11 Del.C. §632.
14.1.18	Murder by abuse or neglect in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §633.
14.1.19	Murder by abuse or neglect in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §634.
14.1.20	Murder in the second degree; class A felony. 11 Del.C. §635.
14.1.21	Murder in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §636.
14.1.22	Promoting suicide. 11 Del.C. §645.
14.1.23	Abortion. 11 Del.C. §651.
14.1.24	Incest. 11 Del.C. §766.
14.1.25	Unlawful sexual contact in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §768.
14.1.26	Unlawful sexual contact in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §769.
14.1.26	Rape in the fourth degree. 11 Del.C. §770.
14.1.27	Rape in the third degree. 11 Del.C. §771.
14.1.28	Rape in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §772.
14.1.29	Rape in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §773.
14.1.30	Sexual extortion. 11 Del.C. §776.
14.1.31	Bestiality. 11 Del.C. §777.
14.1.32	Continuous sexual abuse of a child. 11 Del.C. §778.

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14.1.33
                                Dangerous crime against a child. 11 Del.C. §779.
                14.1.34
                                Female genital mutilation. 11 Del.C. §780.
                14.1.35
                                Unlawful imprisonment in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §782.
                14.1.36
                                Kidnapping in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §783.
                14.1.37
                                Kidnapping in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §783A.
                                Arson in the third degree. 11 Del.C. §801.
                14.1.38
                14.1.39
                                Arson in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §802.
                14.1.40
                                Arson in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §803.
                                Criminal mischief. 11 Del.C. §811.
                14.1.41
                14.1.42
                                Burglary in the third degree. 11 Del.C. §824.
                                Burglary in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §825.
                14.1.43
                                Burglary in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §826.
                14.1.44
                14.1.45
                                Possession of burglar's tools or instruments facilitating theft. 11 Del.C. §828.
                14.1.46
                                Robbery in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §831.
                14.1.47
                                Robbery in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §832.
                                Carjacking in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §835.
                14.1.48
                                Carjacking in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §836.
                14.1.49
                14.1.50
                                Shoplifting; felony. 11 Del.C. §840.
                                Use of illegitimate retail sales receipt or Universal Product Code Label; felony. 11
                14.1.51
Del.C. §840A.
                                Extortion. 11 Del.C. §846.
                14.1.52
                                                      manufacture.
                14.1.53
                                Use.
                                        possession.
                                                                       distribution
                                                                                     and
                                                                                            sale
                                                                                                   of
                                                                                                         unlawful
telecommunication and access devices; felony. 11 Del.C. §850.
                14.1.54
                                Receiving stolen property; felony. 11 Del.C. §851.
                                Identity theft. 11 Del.C. §854.
                14.1.55
14.1.56 Possession of shoplifters tools or instruments facilitating theft. 11 Del.C. §860.
                                Forgery; felony; misdemeanor 11 Del.C. §861.
                14.1.57
                                Possession of forgery devices. 11 Del.C. §862.
                14.1.58
                14.1.59
                                Falsifying business records. 11 Del.C. §871.
                                Tampering with public records in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §873.
                14.1.60
                                Tampering with public records in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §876.
                14.1.61
                14.1.62
                                Offering a false instrument for filing. 11 Del.C. §877.
                14.1.63
                                Issuing a false certificate. 11 Del.C. §878.
                                Issuing a bad check; felony. 11 Del.C. §900.
                14.1.64
                14.1.65
                                Unlawful use of credit card; felony. 11 Del.C. §903.
                14.1.66
                                Reencoder and scanning devices. 11 Del.C. §903A.
                14.1.67
                                Deceptive business practices. 11 Del.C. §906.
                14.1.68
                                Criminal impersonation. 11 Del.C. §907.
                                Criminal impersonation, accident related. 11 Del.C. §907A.
                14.1.69
                14.1.70
                                Criminal impersonation of a police officer. 11 Del.C. §907B.
                14.1.71
                                Securing execution of documents by deception. 11 Del.C. §909.
                14.1.72
                                Fraudulent conveyance of public lands. 11 Del.C. §911.
                14.1.73
                                Fraudulent receipt of public lands. 11 Del.C. §912.
                14.1.74
                                Insurance fraud. 11 Del.C. §913.
                14.1.75
                                Health care fraud. 11 Del.C. §913A.
                14.1.76
                                Use of consumer identification information. 11 Del.C. §914.
                14.1.77
                                Home improvement fraud. 11 Del.C. §916.
                14.1.78
                                New home construction fraud. 11 Del.C. §917.
                14.1.79
                                Unauthorized access. 11 Del.C. §932.
                14.1.80
                                Theft of computer services. 11 Del.C. §933.
                14.1.81
                                Interruption of computer services. 11 Del.C. §934.
                14.1.82
                                Misuse of computer system information. 11 Del.C. §935.
                                Destruction of computer equipment. 11 Del.C. §936.
                14.1.83
                14.1.84
                                Dealing in children. 11 Del.C. §1100.
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14.1.85
                Abandonment of child. 11 Del.C. §1101.
14.1.86
                Endangering the welfare of a child. 11 Del.C. §1102.
14.1.87
                Endangering the welfare of an incompetent person. 11 Del.C. §1105.
                Sexual exploitation of a child. 11 Del.C. §1108.
14.1.88
14.1.89
                Unlawfully dealing in child pornography. 11 Del.C. §1109.
14.1.90
                Possession of child pornography. 11 Del.C. §1111.
                Sexual offenders; prohibitions from school zones. 11 Del.C. §1112.
14.1.91
14.1.92
                Sexual solicitation of a child. 11 Del.C. §1112A.
14.1.93
                Bribery. 11 Del.C. §1201.
14.1.94
                Receiving a bribe; class E felony. 11 Del.C. §1203.
14.1.95
                Improper influence. 11 Del.C. §1207.
14.1.96
                Official misconduct. 11 Del.C. §1211.
14.1.97
                Perjury in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §1222.
14.1.98
                Perjury in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §1223.
14.1.99
                Making a false written statement. 11 Del.C. §1233.
14.1.100
                Wearing a disguise during the commission of a felony. 11 Del.C. §239.
14.1.101
                Terroristic threatening of public officials or public servants. 11 Del.C. §1240.
14.1.102
                Hindering prosecution. 11 Del.C. §1244.
14.1.103
                Abetting the violation of driver's license restrictions. 11 Del.C. §1249.
14.1.104
                Abetting the violation of driver's license restrictions. 11 Del.C. §1249.
14.1.105
                Offenses against law-enforcement animals. Felony 11 Del.C. §1250.
14.1.106
                Escape in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §1252.
14.1.107
                Escape after conviction. 11 Del.C. §1253.
14.1.108
                Assault in a detention facility. 11 Del.C. §1254.
14.1.109
                Promoting prison contraband; felony; misdemeanor. 11 Del.C. §1256.
14.1.110
                Use of an animal to avoid capture; felony 11 Del.C. §1257A.
14.1.111
                Misuse of prisoner mail; felony. 11 Del.C. §1260.
14.1.112
                Bribing a witness. 11 Del.C. §1261.
                Bribe receiving by a witness. 11 Del.C. §1262.
14.1.113
14.1.114
                Tampering with a witness. 11 Del.C. §1263.
14.1.115
                Interfering with child witness. 11 Del.C. §1263A.
14.1.116
                Bribing a juror. 11 Del.C. §1264.
14.1.117
                Bribe receiving by a juror. 11 Del.C. §1265.
14.1.118
                Tampering with a juror. 11 Del.C. §1266.
14.1.119
                Misconduct by a juror. 11 Del.C. §1267.
                Tampering with physical evidence. 11 Del.C. §1269.
14.1.120
14.1.121
                Riot. 11 Del.C. §1302.
14.1.122
                Hate crimes; misdemeanor; felony. 11 Del.C. §1304.
14.1.123
                Aggravated harassment. 11 Del.C. §1312.
14.1.124
                Stalking. 11 Del.C. §1312A.
14.1.125
                Cruelty to animals; felony. 11 Del.C. §1325.
14.1.126
                Animals; fighting and baiting prohibited; felony. 11 Del.C. §1326.
                Maintaining a dangerous animal; felony. 11 Del.C. §1327.
14.1.127
14.1.128
                Abusing a corpse. 11 Del.C. §1332.
14.1.129
                Trading in human remains and associated funerary objects. 11 Del.C. §1333.
                Violation of privacy; misdemeanor; felony. 11 Del.C. §1335.
14.1.129
                Bombs, incendiary devices, Molotov cocktails and explosive devices. 11 Del.C.
14.1.130
14.1.131
                Adulteration. 11 Del.C. §1339.
14.1.132
                Prostitution. 11 Del.C. §1342.
                Patronizing a prostitute prohibited. 11 Del.C. §1343.
14.1.133
14.1.134
                Promoting prostitution in the third degree. 11 Del.C. §1351.
14.1.135
                Promoting prostitution in the second degree. 11 Del.C. §1352.
14.1.136
                Promoting prostitution in the first degree. 11 Del.C. §1353.
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§1338.

	14.1.137	Permitting prostitution. 11 Del.C. §1355.
	14.1.138	Carrying a concealed deadly weapon. 11 Del.C. §1442.
	14.1.139	Carrying a concealed dangerous instrument. 11 Del.C. §1443.
	14.1.140	Possessing a destructive weapon. 11 Del.C. §1444.
	14.1.141	Unlawfully dealing with a dangerous weapon. 11 Del.C. §1445.
	14.1.142	Possession of a deadly weapon during commission of a felony. 11 Del.C. §1447.
	14.1.143	Possession of a firearm during commission of a felony. 11 Del.C. §1447A.
	14.1.144	Possession and purchase of deadly weapons by persons prohibited. 11 Del.C.
§1448.	17.1.177	1 033C33IOH and purchase of deadly weapons by persons profilibiled. 11 Delici
31440.	111115	Criminal history record shocks for colon of firearms; follows 11 Dal C \$1/100
	14.1.145	Criminal history record checks for sales of firearms; felony. 11 Del.C. §1448A.
	14.1.146	Wearing body armor during commission of felony. 11 Del.C. §1449.
	14.1.147	Receiving a stolen firearm. 11 Del.C. §1450.
	14.1.148	Theft of a firearm. 11 Del.C. §1451.
	14.1.149	Giving a firearm to person prohibited. 11 Del.C. §1454.
	14.1.150	Engaging in a firearms transaction on behalf of another. 11 Del.C. §1455.
	14.1.151	Unlawfully permitting a minor access to a firearm. 11 Del.C. §1456.
	14.1.152	Possession of a weapon in a Safe School and Recreation Zone. 11 Del.C. §1457.
	14.1.153	Removing a firearm from the possession of a law enforcement officer. 11 Del.C.
§1458.		
0	14.1.154	Possession of a weapon with a removed, obliterated or altered serial number. 11
Del.C. §1459.		The second secon
DCI.O. 31400.	14.1.155	Prohibited acts. cheating devices (a)-(e), second or subsequent offense. 11
Del.C. §1471.		Tronibited acts. Cheating devices (a)-(e), second of subsequent offense. The
Dei.C. 31471.		Organizad Crime and Decketeering, 11 Del C \$1504
	14.1.156	Organized Crime and Racketeering. 11 Del.C. §1504.
	14.1.157	Victim or Witness Intimidation 11 Del.C. §3532 & 3533.
	14.1.158	Abuse, neglect, mistreatment or financial exploitation of residents or patients. 16
Del.C. §1136(a), (b) and (c).	
	14.1.159	Prohibited acts A under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act. 16 Del.C.
§4751(a), (b)	and (c).	
	14.1.160	Prohibited acts B under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act. 16 Del.C.
§4752(a) and	(b).	
	14.1.161	Unlawful delivery of noncontrolled substance. 16 Del.C. §4752A.
	14.1.162	Trafficking in marijuana, cocaine, illegal drugs, methamphetamines, Lysergic Acid
Diethylamide		er drugs, or 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA). 16 Del.C. §4753A
(a)(1)-(9).	(======), =====	3 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
(α)(1) (σ).	14.1.163	Possession and delivery of noncontrolled prescription drug. 16 Del.C. §4754A.
	14.1.164	Prohibited acts E under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act. 16 Del.C.
§4755(a)(1) aı		Tronibited acts E dider the official controlled Substances Act. To Del.C.
94755(a)(1) ai		Drobibited agts under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act 16 Dal C
\$ 47FC(a\(4\) (F	14.1.165	Prohibited acts under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act. 16 Del.C.
§4756(a)(1)-(5		. II I
0.4	14.1.166	Hypodermic syringe or needle; delivering or possessing; disposal; 16 Del.C.
§4757.		
	14.1.167	Keeping drugs in original containers. 16 Del.C. §4758.
	14.1.168	Distribution to persons under 21 years of age. 16 Del.C. §4761.
	14.1.169	Purchase of drugs from minors. 16 Del.C. §4761A.
	14.1.170	Distribution, delivery, or possession of controlled substance within 1,000 feet of
school propert	ty; penalties; defe	enses. 16 Del.C. §4767.
	14.1.171	Distribution, delivery or possession of controlled substance in or within 300 feet of
park, recreation		synagogue or other place of worship. 16 Del.C. §4768.
, ,	14.1.172	Drug paraphernalia. 16 Del.C. §4771 (a) and (b).
	14.1.173	Possession, manufacture and sale, delivery to a minor and advertising of drug
naranhernalia	. 16 Del.C. §477	
parapriemalia	14.1.174	Operation of a vessel or boat while under the influence of intoxicating liquor and/
or druge: third		·
or arags, trifa	and rountil offens	ses. 23 Del.C. §2302(a) and §2305 (3) and (4).

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14.1.175
                                Attempt to evade or defeat tax. 30 Del.C. §571.
                14.1.176
                                Failure to collect or pay over tax. 30 Del.C. §572.
                14.1.177
                                Failure to file return, supply information or pay tax. 30 Del.C. §573.
                14.1.178
                                Fraud and false statements. 30 Del.C. §574.
                14.1.179
                                Obtaining benefit under false representation. 31 Del.C. §1003.
                                Reports, statements and documents. 31 Del.C. §1004(1), (2), (3), (4), (5).
                14.1.180
                                Kickback schemes and solicitations. 31 Del.C. §1005.
                14.1.181
                14.1.182
                                Conversion of payment. 31 Del.C. §1006.
                                Unlawful possession or manufacture of proof of insurance. 21 Del.C. §2118A.
                14.1.183
                                Temporary registration violations related to providing false information. 21 Del.C.
                14.1.184
§2133(a) (1)-(3).
                14.1.185
                                False statements. 21 Del.C. §2315.
                14.1.186
                                Altering or forging certificate of title, manufacturer's certificate of origin,
registration card, vehicle warranty or certification sticker or vehicle identification plate. 21 Del.C. §2316.
                14.1.187
                                False statements; incorrect or incomplete information. 21 Del.C. §2620.
                                License to operate a motorcycle, motorbike, etc. 21 Del.C. §2703.
                14.1.188
                                Issuance of a Level 1 Learner's Permit and Class D operator's license to persons
                14.1.189
under 18 years of age. 21 Del.C. §2710.
                                Unlawful application for or use of license or identification card. 21 Del.C. §2751.
                14.1.190
                14.1.191
                                False statements. 21 Del.C. §2752.
                14.1.192
                                Driving vehicle while license is suspended or revoked. 21 Del.C. §2756.
                                Duplication, reproduction, altering, or counterfeiting of driver's licenses or
                14.1.193
identification cards. 21 Del.C. §2760(a) and (b).
                14.1.194
                                Driving after judgment prohibited. 21 Del.C. §2810.
                14.1.195
                                False statements. 21 Del.C. §3107.
                14.1.196
                                Driving a vehicle while under the influence or with a prohibited alcohol content. 21
Del.C. §4177 (3) and (4).
                                Duty of driver involved in accident resulting in injury or death to any person. 21
                14.1.197
Del.C. §4202.
                14.1.198
                                Duty to report accidents; evidence. 21 Del.C. §4203.
                14.1.199
                                Possession of motor vehicle master keys, manipulative keys, key-cutting devices,
lock picks or lock picking devices and hot wires. 21 Del.C. §4604(a).
                                Tampering with vehicle. 21 Del.C. §6703.
                14.1.200
                14.1.201
                                Receiving or transferring stolen vehicle. 21 Del.C. §6704.
                14.1.202
                                Removed, falsified or unauthorized identification number on vehicle, bicycle or
engine; removed or affixed license/registration plate with intent to misrepresent identity. 21 Del.C. §6705(a)-(e).
                                Possession of blank title; blank registration card; vehicle identification plate;
                14.1.203
warranty sticker and registration card. 21 Del.C. §6708(a) and (b).
                14.1.204
                                Removal of warranty or certification stickers; vehicle identification plates;
confidential vehicle identification numbers. 21 Del.C. §6709(a).
                14.1.205
                                Unlawful possession of assigned titles, assigned registration cards, vehicle
identification plates and warranty stickers. 21 Del.C. §6710(a).
                                Offenses [involving meat and poultry inspection including bribery or attempted
                14.1.206
bribery or assaulting or impeding any person in the performance of his duties] (felony) 3 Del.C. §871.
                14.1.207
                                Fraudulent Written Statements 3 Del.C. §10049.
                14.1.208
                                Fraudulent Certificate of Registration or Eligibility Documents. 3 Del.C. §10050.
                                Prohibited trade practices against infirm or elderly. 6 Del.C. §2581.
                14.1.209
                14.1.210
                                Auto Repair Fraud victimizing the infirm or elderly. 6 Del.C. §4909A.
                                Possession or use of false weights. 6 Del.C. §5134.
                14.1.211
                14.1.212
                                Violations of the Securities Act. 6 Del.C. §7322.
                14.1.213
                                Unauthorized Acts against a Service Guide or Seeing Eye Dog. 7 Del.C. §1717.
                14.1.214
                                Interception
                                               of Communications
                                                                        Generally;
                                                                                      Divulging
Communications. 11 Del.C. §2402.
                14.1.215
                                Manufacture, Possession or Sale of Intercepting Device. 11 Del.C. §2403.
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	14.1.216	Breaking and Entering, Etc. to Place or Remove Equipment. 11 Del.C. §2410.
	14.1.217	Obstruction, Impediment or Prevention of Interception. 11 Del.C. §2412.
	14.1.218	Obtaining, Altering or Preventing Authorized Access. 11 Del.C. §2421.
	14.1.219	Divulging Contents of Communications. 11 Del.C. §2422.
	14.1.220	Installation and Use Generally [of pen trace and trap and trace devices]. 11 Del.C.
§2431.		
	14.1.221	Aggravated Act of Intimidation. 11 Del.C. §3533.
	14.1.223	Attempt to Intimidate. 11 Del.C. §3534.
	14.1.224	Disclosure of Expunged Records. 11 Del.C. §4374.
	14.1.225	Violation of reporting provisions re: SBI. 11 Del.C. §8523.
	14.1.226	Failure of child-care provider to obtain information required under §8561 or for
those providing	false informatio	n. 11 Del.C. §8562.
	14.1.227	Providing false information when seeking employment in a public school. 11
Del.C. §8572.		
	14.1.228	Filing False Claim [under Victims' Compensation Fund]. 11 Del.C. §9016.
	14.1.229	Alteration, Theft or Destruction of Will. 12 Del.C. §210.
	14.1.230	Violation of reporting requirements involving abuse under §903. 16 Del.C. §914.
	14.1.231	Coercion or intimidation involving health-care decisions and falsification,
destruction of	a document to d	create a false impression that measures to prolong life have been authorized. 16
Del.C. §2513(a	a) and (b).	
	14.1.232	Violations related to the sale, purchase, receipt, possession, transportation, use,
safety and con	trol of explosive	materials other than 16 Del.C. §7103. 16 Del.C. §7112.
	14.1.233	Operation of a Vessel or Boat while under the Influence of Intoxicating Liquor and/
or Drugs. 23 C	Del.C. §2302 (3)	and (4).
	14.1.234	License Requirements. 24 Del.C. §901.
	14.1.235	Sale to Persons under 21 or Intoxicated Persons. 24 Del.C. §903.
	14.1.236	Failure to make Reports of Persons who are Subject to Loss of Consciousness.
24 Del.C. §176	3.	
	14.1.237	[Interference] Relating to the Blind and "Seeing Eye Dogs". 31 Del.C. §2117.
	14.1.238	Abuse, neglect, exploitation or mistreatment of infirm adult. 31 Del.C. §3913(a),
(b) and (c).		
4.4.0	~	

14.2 Crimes substantially related to the practice of optometry shall be deemed to include any crimes under any federal law, state law, or valid town, city or county ordinance, that are substantially similar to the crimes identified in this rule.

8 DE Reg. 1002 (01/01/05) 10 DE Reg. 1727 (05/01/07) (Final)