

CHAPTER I
ARKANSAS STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
RULES AND REGULATIONS

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Pursuant to Act 94 of the Acts of Arkansas of 1941, as amended by Act 102 of 1957, Act 710 of 1979, Act 875 of 1985, Act 397 of 1991, and Act 101 of 1987, and Acts 176/186 of 1997, the Arkansas State Board of Optometry promulgates and adopts the following rules and regulations concerning official action by the Board and the regulation of the practice of optometry.

ARTICLE I - Meeting of Board

Section 1 -

The Board shall meet at least two (2) times each year, time and place to be designated by the President of the Board in his official call of such meetings. However, additional

special meetings may be held at the discretion of the President of the Board, or at the written request of two (2) members of the Board, provided such special meetings are necessary.

Section 2 -

Meetings may be called by the President of the Board by giving three (3) days' notice of meeting. Notice may be oral or written, and shall set forth the time and place of such meeting.

Section 3 -

A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, and if a quorum is not present at the time of such called meeting, same may be adjourned to a later date to be designated by the President.

ARTICLE II - APPLICATIONS FOR EXAMINATION

Section 1 -

Before any person shall be permitted to take the entrance examination prescribed by law, he shall submit a written application to the Secretary of the Board setting forth his name, address, date of birth, and a detailed history of his educational qualifications, showing the name and location of school, and the length of time which the applicant attended school. He shall also state in such application whether he has engaged in the practice of optometry elsewhere. To be eligible to take examination an applicant must be a graduate of a College of Optometry approved and accredited by the State Board.

Section 2 -

Such application shall contain the names of at least three (3) persons, not related to the applicant, as character references with whom the applicant has been associated in the past five (5) years.

Section 3 -

In making such application the applicant shall state that he is willing to abide by the laws of this State regulating the practice of optometry and shall abide by the rules and regulations adopted by this Board.

Section 4 -

Such application shall be subscribed by the applicant and sworn to by him before any officer, qualified under the laws of this State, to administer oaths.

Section 5 -

Any person furnishing false information in such application shall be denied the right to the entrance examination, or if the applicant has been licensed before it is made known to the Board of the falseness of such information, such license shall be the subject of suspension or revocation.

Section 6 -

The examination will be administered no less than twice a year. The application for examination shall be accompanied by a fee of \$400.00. The application and the fee must be received by the State Board office prior to 12:00 midnight, June 1st for the mid year exam and prior to 12:00 midnight January 1st for the first quarter exam of the year. Applications received after these deadlines will not be accepted.

Section 7 -

In case of withdrawal the examination fee, less a \$25 service charge, will be refunded if written notice of withdrawal is received at least 45 days prior to the date the examination is to be given.

Section 8 -

All examinations will be given in English.

ARTICLE III - ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Section 1 -

Entrance examination shall be given by members of the Board, or any duly qualified individual or committee, designated by the Board.

Section 2 -

Such examination may be oral or written, or both, and shall consist of the subjects designated in Section 5 of Act 94 of the Acts of Arkansas of 1941 as amended by Act 102 of 1957, Act 710 of 1979, Act 875 of 1985, Act 397 of 1991, Act 101 of 1987, and Acts 176/186 of 1997 and other subjects designated by the Board.

ARTICLE IV - Reciprocity

Section 1 -

An application for licensure by reciprocity pursuant to Subchapter 3 of Section 17-90-302 of Act 397 of 1991, shall be filed with the Secretary of the Board and shall set forth the name, address, date of birth, and the place or places where the applicant has engaged in

the practice of optometry for the three (3) years immediately preceding the application. The application shall contain the names of at least three persons not related to the applicant with whom the applicant has been associated in the last five years. Such application shall also state whether or not the applicant has ever been convicted of a crime, or has ever had his license to practice optometry in other states revoked or suspended.

Section 2 -

Such application shall also set forth the educational and professional qualifications of the applicant.

Section 3 -

The application shall contain a statement by the applicant that he is willing to abide by the laws of this State and the rules and regulations of this Board, and such application shall be subscribed by the applicant and sworn to by him before an officer qualified to administer oaths by the laws of this State.

Section 4 -

The application shall be accompanied with a fee of \$400.00. It shall be understood by the applicant that the application fee is to cover the cost of investigation and examination felt necessary by the Board.

ARTICLE V - RENEWALS

Section 1 -

All renewal fees shall be paid to the Secretary of the Board on or before the 1st day of February each year. Effective February 1, 2001 and every year thereafter, the renewal fee shall be \$150.00 per year. Each license shall expire at 12:00 midnight, February 1st of each year.

A. Each license renewal fee must be received in the office of the secretary of the Arkansas Board of Optometry no later than 12:00 midnight on February 1 of each year. Only those applications received by this deadline shall be considered timely, regardless of postmark. The responsibility of timely renewal is placed entirely upon the holder of the license, and shall not be transferred to any employee, firm, agent, or other third party, including the postal service.

B. Each license holder, who has not renewed his or her license on or before February 1 of each year, will be given thirty (30) days' notice of a hearing before the Board. Notice of such hearing shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested. The Board may consider the following facts and circumstances in reaching a decision as to the terms and conditions of renewal:

1. If the applicant continued to practice in any manner whatsoever subsequent to the notice of a hearing before the Board.
2. Whether there were any extenuating circumstances preventing a timely application for licensure.

Section 2 -

Any optometrist licensed to practice in Arkansas, who leaves the State, may retain his license by complying with the continuing education requirements and paying the renewal fee each year. If said optometrist fails to renew his license or comply with the requirements to practice in Arkansas, his license will be revoked, and he will come under the rules of reciprocity if he desires to practice optometry in Arkansas.

Section 3 -

License and current certificate of renewal of license to practice optometry, will always be displayed in a conspicuous place in the office of the holder thereof, and whenever requested the license and current certificate of renewal will be exhibited or produced before the Arkansas State Board of Optometry, or to its authorized agents. Any optometrist who performs any of the acts constituting the practice of optometry, or any part thereof, as described in the Arkansas Optometry Law (A.C.A. 17-90-101 et. seq.), or who employs others to perform any or all of the same, shall specify to the State Board of Optometry a designation for each location where full or partial practice takes place. Recognizing that modes of practice vary from location to location, and such modes of practice may include the utilization of a primary office only, a rotation between branch offices, or the combination of a primary office and one or more branch offices, the Board does hereby set forth rules and regulations governing both the definition of office designations and the requirements and restrictions pertaining to the same. It is the express intent of these rules and regulations to ensure that all offices, whether primary offices or branch offices, are regulated in a like manner. The requirements for primary offices must be no less than those for branch offices.

A. A primary office is defined as: the permanent location at which a licensed optometrist practices full-time, or if practicing in more than one location, the office at which he or she practices the greatest percentage of time, or if practicing with a mobile branch office, that office the licensee utilizes for record storage, equipment maintenance, and patient availability in conjunction with the mobile operations.

B. A branch office is defined as any office, other than the primary office, at which a licensed optometrist or employee or agent of a licensed optometrist solicits patients either directly or indirectly and in a premeditated fashion for the purpose of rendering any type of optometric services, including the measuring, repairing, ordering, dispensing, verifying, or adjusting of ophthalmic materials or spectacle lens prescriptions.

1. A fixed branch office is a branch office as defined above is located in a permanent location.

2. A mobile branch office is a mobile operation utilized for the practice of optometry at multiple locations.

C. Availability is the reasonable ability to ensure provision of optometric care in a timely manner as warranted by patient needs, including, but not limited to, emergencies.

A licensee who practices in more than one (1) office location shall make application to the Board for a duplicate license for each branch office for display as required by this section. In issuing a duplicate license, the address of the branch office location and the original certificate number shall be included. At the time of an annual renewal of the license, those optometrists who have been issued a duplicate license for a branch office shall make application to the Arkansas State Board of Optometry on a form provided by the Board for the renewal of the license. The holder of a certificate for a branch office may cancel it by returning the certificate to the Secretary of the Board.

The fee for a duplicate license for each branch office shall be \$50.00, to be renewed annually, and will expire at 12:00 midnight February 1 of each year.

A licensed optometrist practicing in more than one (1) office shall provide information to patients as to how he or she, or another licensed optometrist, may be contacted during regular business hours.

Section 4 -

Each licensed optometrist must comply with the following:

A. Each licensed optometrist shall have on file with the Board his current business address and telephone number.

B. If any change shall occur in either of the above, the licensed optometrist, or his agent, shall notify the Secretary of the Board, in writing, within twenty (20) days.

C. Any correspondence from the State Board of Optometry, of any nature, which is mailed to a listed permanent address of a licensed optometrist, which requires response or action, must be taken care of within the time specified in the notice, or if no time is stated in the notice, within thirty (30) days of the receipt of said notice.

D. In case of absence or disability, each licensed optometrist shall designate a responsible party (secretary, attorney, or a relative) with appropriate address, to serve as his agent. The designated person will have authority to respond in his behalf to any correspondence received from the Board under © above.

E. The name, address, and phone number of the person designated as agent for the licensed optometrist shall be listed with the Board at each license renewal time, or in the event of any change, as required above.

F. Every licensed optometrist shall, within ten (10) days of receipt of written notification of the filing of a claim or lawsuit alleging malpractice against him or her, notify the Arkansas State Board of Optometry by registered letter of the lawsuit and provide the information on a form provided by the Board. All such information and reports shall be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, and shall be released only upon the order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

G. Failure to comply with any of the above requirements shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of the licensed optometrist to practice and/or fines.

Section 5 -

Requirements and restrictions for primary offices:

Each licensed optometrist owning or using a primary office only shall:

A. Report to the Board the street address and telephone number of the office designated as the primary office.

B. Maintain reasonable access to all patient records at the primary office location for each patient examined or treated at that location.

C. Ensure the provision of appropriate follow-up care, continuity of care, and availability for his or her patients in the primary office location.

D. Maintain in good working order the equipment necessary to provide a routine eye examination which shall include, but not be limited to, the following minimum equipment: a device for the accurate measurement of visual acuity, a lensometer, a direct ophthalmoscope, a binocular indirect ophthalmoscope (DPA, TPA, or optometric physician, certified practitioners only), a retinoscope, an instrument for the measurement of intra-ocular pressure, a refracting instrument, an instrument for measurement of corneal curvature, an instrument for the measurement of visual fields, and a biomicroscope.

E. Ensure that a licensed optometrist be in personal attendance at least twenty percent (20%) of the time, per month, the primary office is open, seeing patients.

F. Meet all the requirements of the Arkansas Optometry Law, Act 397 of the Acts of Arkansas-1991 (A.C.A.17-90-303).

Section 6 -

Requirements and restrictions for fixed branch offices:

Each licensed optometrist owning or using one or more fixed branch offices shall:

- A. Report to the Board each fixed branch office location other than a primary office at which he or she is practicing optometry.
- B. Maintain reasonable access to all patient records at each fixed branch office location for each patient examined or treated at that location.
- C. Ensure the provision of appropriate follow-up care, continuity of care, and availability for his or her patients in the fixed branch office location.
- D. Maintain in good working order the equipment necessary to provide a routine eye examination which shall include, but not be limited to, the following minimum equipment: a device for the accurate measurement of visual acuity, a lensometer, a direct ophthalmoscope, a binocular indirect ophthalmoscope (DPA, TPA, or optometric physician, certified practitioners only), a retinoscope, an instrument for the measurement of intra-ocular pressure, a refracting instrument, an instrument for measurement of corneal curvature, an instrument for the measurement of visual fields, and a biomicroscope.
- E. Ensure that a licensed optometrist be in personal attendance at least twenty percent (20%) of the time, per month, the fixed branch office is open.
- F. Meet all the requirements of the Arkansas Optometry Law, Act 397 of the Acts of Arkansas-1991 (A.C.A. 17-90-303).

Section 7 -

Requirements and restrictions for mobile branch offices:

- A. Report to the Board, the office at which all patient records are maintained.
- B. Provide every patient with the telephone number and address of the office used in conjunction with the mobile operations.
- C. Maintain reasonable access to all patient records at the office.
- D. Ensure personal availability via the use of a beeper, mobile telephone, radio, or other modality that is capable of receiving calls from the office while the licensed practitioner is practicing at one of the various locations served by the mobile operation.
- E. Ensure the provision of appropriate follow-up care, continuity of care, and availability for his or her patients in every location served by the mobile operation.

F. Maintain and use appropriate facilities for the storage and transit of all pharmaceutical agents used by the licensed practitioner or certified optometrist that will ensure the safety and condition of such agents when they are in transit or being stored.

G. Maintain in good working order the equipment necessary to provide a routine eye examination which shall include, but not be limited to, the following minimum equipment: A device for the accurate measurement of visual acuity, a lensometer, a direct ophthalmoscope, a binocular indirect ophthalmoscope (DPA, TPA, or optometric physician, certified practitioners only), a retinoscope, an instrument for the measurement of intra-ocular pressure, a refracting instrument, an instrument for measurement of corneal curvature, an instrument for the measurement of visual field, and a biomicroscope.

H. Ensure that a licensed optometrist be in personal attendance at least twenty percent (20%) of the time, per month, the mobile branch office is open.

I. Meet all the requirements of the Arkansas Optometry Law, Act 397 of the Acts of Arkansas - 1991 (A.C.A. 17-90-303).

Section 8 -

Any licensed optometrist who owns, operates, or leases to or from another person any type of office (practice) or optical dispensary as described in Section 3 (a) and/or (b) of the Rules and Regulations of the Arkansas State Board of Optometry, or who employs others to do the same, shall include his or her full name, displayed in a prominent fashion, on or near, the entrance of the office or optical dispensary, and in any written advertisement, concerning such operation, so that the public is properly informed as to the licensed optometrist responsible for the materials and services offered at such locations.

In addition, at each location, the full name of the licensed optometrist physically present and responsible for the provision of optical goods and/or services on each particular day shall be displayed in a prominent fashion, on or near, the entrance of the office or optical dispensary.

Section 9 -

Renewal of the Certificate of Registration for a Professional Corporation.

A. In accordance with section 64-2005 and 64-2006 of the General Statutes of Arkansas, the Chief Corporate Officer is required to renew the Certificate of Registration no later than January 31 of each year. The fee for renewal is \$10.00.

Section 10 -

Failure to comply with any of the requirements contained herein in ARTICLE V, RENEWALS, Rules and Regulations of the Arkansas State Board of Optometry, shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of the practitioner's license to practice and/or fines.

ARTICLE VI - UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Section 1 -

The following acts on the part of any licensed optometrist shall be deemed by the Board to be unprofessional conduct.

- A. The violation of any of the provisions of Act 94 of 1941, as amended by Act 102 of 1957, Act 710 of 1979, Act 875 of 1985, Act 101 of 1987 and Acts 176/186 of 1997.
- B. The violation of any of the rules and regulations promulgated by this Board.
- C. For any optometrist to fraudulently represent or misrepresent any fact concerning his professional activities toward his patient.
- D. False or fraudulent representation, or misrepresentation, of the quality or effectiveness of materials used by such optometrist.
- E. For any optometrist to treat or prescribe for a patient when he is grossly incompetent to do so.
- F. For any optometrist to make an exorbitant or unreasonable charge for materials or services rendered, or furnished by him, to his patients.
- G. For any optometrist to be convicted of a felony or to be identified by the Board as impaired. "Impaired" shall mean the presence of active alcoholism, substance (drug) abuse, and/or any other mental illness resulting in professional incompetence (i.e.. the inability or failure of practitioner to practice optometry with reasonable skill and safety).
- H. For any optometrist to accept employment from an unlicensed person or corporation to engage in the practice of optometry.
- I. For any optometrist to advertise in any manner any fraudulent, false, or misleading statement as to the skill or method of his practice, or to advertise in any manner that tends to deceive or mislead the public.
- J. For any optometrist to advertise or represent that he possesses a peculiar or particular technique or degree of training which makes him superior to, or more effective, in the practice of optometry than other optometrists.
- K. For any optometrist to fail to keep secret and inviolate all information of a personal nature obtained by him while acting in his professional capacity.

L. For any optometrist to exaggerate the visual defects of a patient, but on the other hand must reveal in a fair and candid manner the actual condition of the patient, if requested to do so.

M. For any optometrist to use an unprofessional display sign of any type, provided, however, paint, gold-leaf, or other forms of lettering on windows, doors or walls may be used setting forth the name and title "Optometrist" or "Doctor of Optometry" or the abbreviation "O.D.," provided further, due to multiple practices when an O.D. does one thing and the other does another, and further, due to offices located in shopping centers and located away from the street, it would be considered professional and ethical for a sign in small letters to be placed near the street, also on building where office is located; be it further considered professional, due to professional corporation Act, that the sign may read as follows:

- 1. (Last Name) - Optometric Vision Clinic
- 2. (Full Name) - O.D. or Doctor of Optometry
- 3. (Full Name) - Optometrist, O.D., or Doctor of Optometry NOT ALL
- 4. If incorporated, P.A., P.C., or LTD, follows O.D. or incorporated name.

N. For any optometrist to practice under any name other than his own proper name.

O. The receipt, directly or indirectly, of any rebate, commission, refund, or discount from any person, firm, or corporation who supplies and/or dispenses ophthalmic materials directly to the optometrist's patient, whether said rebate, commission, refund, or discount in the form of money, property, or other financial considerations, whether it be based upon a percentage or upon the difference between so-called wholesale and retail price, or otherwise.

It is determined by the Board that the preceding acts are unethical and constitute unprofessional conduct, and shall be discontinued forthwith under penalty of revocation or suspension of license and/or fines for violation thereof.

P. Arkansas Code Annotated § 17-90-305 provides that the Board may discipline an optometrist for exhibiting unprofessional conduct. Any prescription written by a licensed optometrist in the State of Arkansas will contain and comply with the following:

1. The name of the prescribing optometrist must be printed on each prescription in a legible manner.
2. The address and telephone number of the prescribing optometrist must be placed on the type printed form on the prescription.
3. The State license number as issued by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry to the prescribing optometrist must be clearly written on the prescription.
4. The prescribing optometrist must place his signature on each prescription.
5. The body of the prescription must be legible in order to clearly communicate the quantity and strength of the substance or item to be

- prescribed as well as any instructions for a medication or use of the item in order to insure safety of the patient.
6. That the name of the patient for whom the prescription is written must be clearly printed on the prescription.
 7. The date that the prescription is given to the patient must be written on the prescription.

An optometrist would be considered as exhibiting unprofessional conduct if he does not comply with the above state requirements in writing prescriptions.

ARTICLE VII - OPHTHALMIC ADVERTISING

Section 1 -

Any optometrist who advertises as to his services, charges, or items furnished shall do so in such a manner as not to directly or indirectly mislead the public with respect thereto and in accordance with the following:

- A. Such advertising shall specify as to services, what services are included in the prices quoted and specifically whether the price includes professional examination and prescriptions, and whether additional charges may be made for related or subsequent services required in individual cases.
- B. Any statement or advertisement, which purports to provide a “guaranteed” cure of any condition as a result of receipt of ophthalmic services or materials, is prohibited.
- C. Any statement or advertisement which involves eyeglasses, lenses, frames, mountings, or prosthetic devices shall specify the kind, type, and quality of the advertised item, as well as the name of the manufacturer, and the manufacturer’s identifying name or number to enable the public to identify and evaluate the advertised item. Such advertising shall state whether the quoted price includes the cost of professional services, and if not, the amount which will be added for each service.

Section 2 -

Any statement or advertisement which makes unsubstantiated claims comparing prices or quality of services, and/or materials such as “best examination in Arkansas,” or “Lowest prices in Arkansas” is prohibited.

Section 3 -

Any statement or advertisement which offers a “discount” on the price of ophthalmic materials or services must specify the regular price of the material or service.

Section 4 -

Optometrists may obtain a listing in the Yellow Pages or classified section of the telephone or other directories, as long as such listing conforms to the style and type of listing of other health professionals.

ARTICLE VIII - CONTINUING EDUCATION

Section 1 -

Beginning on the first day of January, 1996, in addition to the payment of the license renewal fee, each optometrist registered under the provisions of Act 94 of 1941, as amended by Act 102 of 1957, Act 710 of 1979, Act 101 of 1987, Act 3907 of 1991, and Acts 176/186 of 1997 of the Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas applying for the renewal of his license, shall furnish to the Arkansas State Board of Optometry satisfactory evidence that he obtained no less than twelve (12) clock hours of post-graduate education in a course, or courses, previously designated or approved by the Board, in the year just preceding such application for the renewal of his or her license. All out of state C.E. must be COPE (Council on Optometric Practitioner Education) approved. The State Board will continue to review in-state courses and courses offered by accredited schools and colleges of optometry, schools of medicine, and pharmacy. Of the twelve (12) clock hours required for license renewal, credit for four (4) clock hours may be obtained through approved correspondence or Internet courses. The Secretary of the Arkansas State Board of Optometry shall mail by first class United States mail a written notice to this effect to each person holding a license to practice optometry within the state of Arkansas at least thirty (30) days prior to the first day of January in each year, directed to the last-known address of such licensee. In the event that any licensee shall fail to obtain twelve (12) clock hours of post-graduate education previously designated or approved by the Board, this is declared to be unprofessional conduct by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry and shall be cause for revocation, or suspension of license to practice optometry in this state and/or fines; or to refuse to issue a renewal of any license at any time.

Provided, however, the Arkansas State Board of Optometry may reinstate such licensee to practice optometry in this State any time, or issue a renewal license to any licensee at any time upon the presentation of satisfactory evidence of completion of the post-graduate study required for license renewal and upon the payment of all fees due.

Provided, further, that any optometrist, who because of illness or other unavoidable circumstances, is unable to comply herewith, may make application to the State Board stating the circumstances as to why he or she is unable to so comply, and the Board, at its discretion, may relieve the applicant from so complying for such time and under such circumstances as the Board deems proper.

If any licensee desires to be considered by the Board as retired, and not practicing optometry, then the licensee may renew his or her license without complying with the continuing education requirements.

Optometrists serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or Public Health Service assigned to duties outside the boundaries of the United States will be classified as “hardship” and excluded from the continued education requirements.

One clock hour of continuing education requirements of the required 12 clock hours per year must be in the subject matter of Arkansas Jurisprudence, to include the study of the Arkansas Statutes and Regulations of the Board governing the practice of optometry. Said jurisprudence course must be pre-approved by the Board in order to meet the one hour requirement of continuing education.

ARTICLE IX - OPHTHALMIC STANDARDS

Section 1 -

All ophthalmic lenses and material dispensed by licensed optometrists in this state shall conform to standards of quality as promulgated by the American National Standards Institute (commonly known as Z-80 standards), which are in effect on the date these rules take effect.

ARTICLE X - FILING AND INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES

Section 1 -

Any person may make a complaint before this Board against any licensed optometrist by filing with the Secretary a written statement setting forth the name of the optometrist, the nature of the acts to be discussed, and the time and place where the alleged acts occurred. Such information shall be kept confidential, unless it is made the basis of a hearing before the Board.

Section 2 -

The Board shall investigate all complaints before taking action thereon or making name public. The Board shall also give any optometrist, against whom a complaint may be filed, an opportunity to explain his side of the complaint.

Section 3 -

If, after investigation, the Board finds the complaint was justified, it may take action thereon, or may issue a warning to such optometrist that any future violation will result in immediate action by the Board.

ARTICLE XI - REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION PROCEEDINGS

Section 1 -

Before proceedings are had by the Board it shall cause to be issued a notice to the accused, according to Section 10 of Act 94 of 1941, as amended by Act 102 of 1957.

Section 2 -

Such notice shall designate in detail the nature of the charges against the person accused and shall set forth the time and place of the hearing.

Section 3 -

All hearings contemplating the revocation, suspension, or rejection for renewal of licenses shall be conducted according to Section 10 of Act 94 of 1941 as amended by Act 102 of 1957, or as provided in the uniform law pertaining to State Boards.

CHAPTER II

RULES AND REGULATIONS

GOVERNING DIAGNOSTIC PHARMACEUTICAL

AGENTS CERTIFICATION

ARTICLE I- Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agents Certification

(This chapter will expire when all Arkansas DPA certified optometrists have successfully met the requirements to become an optometrist certified as an optometric physician.)

Section 1 -

For those optometrists holding only a DPA certificate, the following rules and regulations shall apply.

Section 2 -

The following general categories of pharmaceutical agents are hereby approved for use as diagnostic agents: Topical Anesthetics, Mydriatics, Cycloplegics, and Dyes.

Section 3 -

No optometrist shall use a pharmaceutical agent until he or she has exhibited his or her qualifications by passing an examination prepared or approved by the Board. Prior to taking the examination, an applicant must present evidence that he or she has (1) graduated from an accredited college of optometry since January 1973, or (2) has successfully completed a course of study approved by the Board.

Upon meeting the qualifications and passing an approved examination, the Board shall issue a certificate to the optometrist which shall be valid for a period of three (3) years unless suspended or revoked.

For renewal of a certificate, each optometrist must submit proof that he or she has, during the preceding three (3) years, received six (6) clock hours of instruction in pharmacology approved by the Board.

The Board hereby approves the examination in pharmacology of the Board for purposes of these standards; however, the examination shall be reviewed by the Board at least every two (2) years to assure that the questions contained therein sufficiently cover the subject of pharmacology.

Section 4 -

Each certified optometrist shall establish a written procedure prior to use of any approved pharmaceutical agent. These procedures should include:

A. A prior arrangement should be established which assures communication between the optometrist and any one of the following: an ophthalmologist, a general physician, the Emergency Medical Service Unit in the area, or the emergency room personnel at a local hospital.

B. All office personnel shall be instructed concerning these emergency procedures.

C. An optometrist certified to use pharmaceutical agents shall be certified for CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). An optometrist may apply in writing to the Board for a waiver of this requirement.

D. Verification shall be provided to the Secretary of the State Board of Optometry that items (a), (b), and (c) have been implemented.

Section 5 -

Referrals of patients shall be made in accordance with the rules of the Board.

Section 6 -

The Board may suspend or revoke the DPA certification of any optometrist who violates any of the provisions of these rules and regulations, or Act 710 of 1979, or Act 875 of 1985.

CHAPTER III

RULES AND REGULATIONS

**GOVERNING THE EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
FOR OPTOMETRISTS WHO POSSESS, ADMINISTER, AND PRESCRIBE
PHARMACEUTICAL AGENTS**

(This chapter will expire when all Arkansas TPA certified optometrist have successfully met the requirements to become an optometrist certified as an optometric physician.)

The Arkansas State Board of Optometry shall have the right and responsibility to approve those optometrists who shall be authorized to possess, administer, and prescribe pharmaceutical agents approved pursuant to Act 101 of 1987.

The Arkansas State Board of Optometry shall have the right and responsibility to promulgate educational standards as prerequisites to authorization for use of pharmaceutical agents pursuant to Act 101 of 1987.

The following educational standards are the prerequisites required by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry to possess, administer, and prescribe pharmaceutical agents pursuant to Act 101 of 1987.

ARTICLE I - Post Graduate Course

Section 1 -

Any optometrist who is a graduate of a school, or college of optometry, or licensed as of the effective date of this Act (July 20, 1987), and who has not already completed a post-graduate course of study of transcript quality in ocular therapy and pharmacology from an accredited school or college of optometry which complies with all the prerequisites and requirements of the Board and this Act, must successfully complete such course. The successful completion of such course is a prerequisite to the internship program.

Section 2 -

The post-graduate course in ocular therapy and pharmacology must be from an accredited school or college of optometry, and of transcript quality credit, and must be approved by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry. A successful passing grade on the examination for the course is required to indicate successful completion of such course as determined by the institution, or the Arkansas State Board of Optometry.

ARTICLE II - Internship

Section 1 -

Upon successful completion of an approved post-graduate course in ocular therapy and pharmacology, the optometrist may apply to the Arkansas State Board of Optometry to

begin the required internship program. No optometrist shall be authorized until he or she has served in an internship program established by the Board. The internship shall consist of at least 100 hours of supervised clinical training in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions of the human eye and adnexa.

Section 2 -

The internship program shall be conducted under the supervision of a board-certified ophthalmologist. Each ophthalmologist shall certify the hours attained under his supervision by the intern (optometrist) in the area specified in Section 1 above. The intern (optometrist) shall log his or her hours in the logbook provided by the State Board of Optometry. The Arkansas State Board of Optometry shall certify that each intern (optometrist) has met the 100-hour minimum training in the area specified in Section 1 above.

Section 3 -

Those optometrists who graduate after the effective date of Act 101 July 20, 1987) shall be required to successfully pass a test in pharmacology given or approved by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry and then shall apply to the State Board for a log book to begin their 100 hour internship program.

ARTICLE III - Educational Standards - Emergency Situations

Section 1 -

Each certified optometrist shall establish a written procedure prior to use of any approved pharmaceutical agent. These procedures should include:

- A. A prior arrangement should be established, which assures communication between the optometrist and any one of the following: an ophthalmologist, a general physician, the Emergency Medical Service Unit in the area, or the emergency room personnel at a local hospital.
- B. All office personnel shall be instructed concerning these emergency procedures.
- C. An optometrist certified to use pharmaceutical agents shall be certified for CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). An optometrist may apply in writing to the Board for a waiver of this requirement.
- D. Verification shall be provided to the Secretary of the State Board of Optometry that items (a), (b), and (c) have been implemented.

ARTICLE IV - ISSUE AND RENEWAL OF THERAPEUTIC DRUG CERTIFICATE

Section 1 -

Upon certification by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry, a therapeutic drug certificate shall be issued to the optometrist which shall be valid for a period of three (3) years.

Section 2 -

For renewal of the therapeutic drug certificate, the optometrist must submit proof that he or she has, during the preceding three (3) years, received a minimum of twelve (12) clock hours of instruction in pharmacology approved by the Board.

Section 3 -

All renewal fees shall be paid to the Secretary of the Board on or before the first day of February of the year of renewal. The renewal fee shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per three-year period. Failure to renew shall be cause for suspension or revocation of the certificate.

Section 4 -

The current therapeutic drug certificate shall at all times be displayed in a conspicuous place in the office of the holder thereof, and whenever requested, the certificate shall be exhibited or produced before the Arkansas State Board of Optometry or to its authorized agents.

Section 5 -

The TPA (Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents) certificate supersedes the DPA (Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agents) certificate. Both are not required.

Section 6 -

Duplicate TPA or DPA certificates must be displayed in a branch office. The fee for the duplicate certificate for each branch office shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per three-year period. All renewal fees shall be paid to the Secretary of the Board on or before the first day of February of the year of renewal. Failure to renew shall be cause for suspension or revocation of the certificate.

ARTICLE V - Certification

Section 1 -

Upon successful completion of a Board approved post-graduate course in ocular therapy and pharmacology and the 100 hour internship, certified by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry, the optometrist shall apply to take an examination prepared or approved by

the Arkansas State Board of Optometry. Upon successful completion of this examination, the Board of Optometry shall authorize the optometrist to possess, administer and prescribe the drugs approved by Act 101 of 1987.

ARTICLE VI - Revocation or Suspension

Section 1 -

The Board may suspend or revoke the TPA certification of any optometrist, and/or fine, anyone who violates any of the provisions of these rules and regulations, or Act 710 of the Acts of Arkansas of 1979, or Act 875 of the Acts of Arkansas, or Act 101 of the Acts of Arkansas of 1987.

CHAPTER IV

RULES AND REGULATIONS

GOVERNING THE USE OF TOPICAL THERAPEUTIC DRUGS

FOR OPTOMETRIC CARE

(For TPA certified optometrist)

ARTICLE I - Use of Therapeutic Drugs

Section 1 -

The following pharmaceutical agents are authorized to be possessed, administered, and prescribed by a board-certified optometrist. The following agents are to be applied topically to the eye: anesthetics, anti-allergy, antibacterial/antiseptic, antibiotic, antifungal, anti-glaucoma, antihistamine/decongestant, artificial tear preparation, anti-inflammatory, anti-inflammatory/antibiotic, anti-inflammatory/antibacterial, decongestants, decongestants/astringent, demulcents, dyes, emollients, hyperosmotic agents, irrigation solution, lubricants, mydriatics, miotics, mydriatic/cycloplegics, and vasoconstrictors. The strength and manner in which these agents may be possessed, administered, and prescribed shall be in accordance with the reasonable standard of care accepted in the community in which the certified optometrist practices.

Section 2 -

Prior to beginning the treatment of patients for glaucoma, a certified optometrist shall consult with an ophthalmologist and develop a written protocol. Written protocol shall include the following: visual acuity, intraocular pressure, and evaluation of the optic nerve, visual fields, and the anterior chamber angle. The manner of care rendered by the optometrist depends upon the individual written protocol established between the

optometrist and the ophthalmologist, and may be altered by mutual written consent on an as needed basis.

Section 3 -

The certified optometrist may remove superficial foreign bodies from the lid, conjunctiva, adnexa, and cornea (not deeper than the posterior region of the Bowman's membrane of the cornea.)

Section 4 -

This will certify that the foregoing regulations governing the use of topical therapeutic drugs for optometric care by Board certified optometrists were duly adopted by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry on May 1, 1997.

Robert W. Smalling, O.D. President

Howard F. Flippin, O.D., Secretary

CHAPTER V

RULES, REGULATIONS AND EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

GOVERNING OPTOMETRISTS CERTIFIED

AS OPTOMETRIC PHYSICIANS PURSUANT TO

ACTS 176/186 OF 1997

The Arkansas State Board of Optometry shall have the rights and responsibilities to:

1. Promulgate rules and regulations pursuant Acts 176/186 of 1997.
2. Approve those optometrists who shall be authorized to possess, administer, and prescribe all drugs to diagnose and treat the eye, lid, and adnexa approved pursuant to Acts 176/186 of 1997.
3. Promulgate educational standards as prerequisites to authorization for use of all drugs to treat the eye, lid, and adnexa pursuant to Acts 176 and 186 of 1997.
4. Promulgate educational standards as prerequisites to authorization for primary eye care procedures pursuant to Acts 176/186 of 1997.

ARTICLE I - Definitions

Section 1 -

Optometric Physician -

Any optometrist certified by the State Board of Optometry to perform primary eye care procedures with topical anesthesia, and to prescribe and administer all oral and topical drugs to treat the eye, lid, and adnexa pursuant to Acts 176/186 of 1997.

Section 2 -

Primary Optometric Eye Care -

Any optometric eye care treatments and procedures, provided by an optometrist certified as an optometric physician, approved by the Board, shall constitute primary optometric eye care.

ARTICLE II - Educational requirements for optometrists certified as optometric physicians.

Section 1 -

The following qualifications must be met to be certified as an optometric physician:

A. Optometrists licensed prior to the effective date of Acts 176/186 of 1997 (Feb. 17, 1997), who have graduated from a college or school of optometry prior to Act 101 of 1987, who have passed an approved accredited post graduate course of transcript quality in general and ocular therapy and pharmacology, who have passed a State Board test in general and ocular therapy and pharmacology, who have passed a State Board test on jurisprudence and other tests as required by the Board, who have completed the 100 hour internship program, and must have completed twenty (20) clock hours of a Board approved Oral Therapeutic Update CE Course.

B. Optometrists licensed prior to the effective date of Acts 176/186 of 1997 (Feb. 17, 1997) and graduated after the effective date of Act 101 of 1987, (July 20, 1987), who have graduated from an accredited college or school of optometry, who have passed a State Board test in general and ocular therapy and pharmacology, who have passed a State Board test on jurisprudence and other tests as required by the Board, who have completed the 100 hour internship program, and must have completed twenty (20) clock hours of a Board approved Oral Therapeutic Update CE Course.

C. Optometrists who are graduates of a school or college of optometry and who apply for licensure in Arkansas after the effective date of Acts 176/186 of 1997 (February 17, 1997), must have passed all parts of the National Board Examinations for Optometry, must have passed a State Board test in general and ocular therapy and pharmacology, must have passed a State Board test on jurisprudence, and other tests as required by the Board and must have completed the 100 hour internship program.

D. Arkansas licensed optometrists, who are not included in the paragraphs above (DPA and Non-DPA) and desire to become certified as an optometric physician, must pass a comprehensive accredited transcript quality course in general and ocular therapy and pharmacology from a school or college of optometry approved by the Board, must pass a State Board test on jurisprudence, rules, regulations and other tests as required by the Board, and must have completed the 100 hour internship program.

ARTICLE III - Internship program

Section 1 -

The internship shall consist of at least 100 hours of supervised clinical training in the examination, diagnosis, and treatment of conditions of the human eye, lid and adnexa.

Section 2 -

The internship program shall be conducted under the supervision of a board-certified ophthalmologist. Each ophthalmologist shall certify the hours attained under his supervision by the intern (optometrist) in the area specified in Section 1 above. The intern (optometrist) shall log his or her hours in the logbook provided by the State Board of Optometry. The Arkansas State Board of Optometry shall certify that each intern (optometrist) has met the 100-hour minimum training in the area specified in Section 1 above.

ARTICLE IV - Emergency Situations

Section 1 -

An optometrist, certified as an optometric physician, shall establish a written procedure for emergency situations which shall include:

- A. Prior arrangement which assures communication between the optometrist and any one of the following: an ophthalmologist, a general physician, the Emergency Medical Service Unit in the area, or the emergency room personnel at a local hospital.
- B. Instruction of all office personnel concerning these emergency procedures.
- C. Shall maintain current certification in CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). An optometrist may apply in writing to the Board for a waiver of this requirement.
- D. Verification shall be provided to the Secretary of the State Board of Optometry that items (a), (b), and (c) have been implemented upon renewal of certificate.

ARTICLE V - ISSUE AND RENEWAL OF OPTOMETRIC PHYSICIAN CERTIFICATE

Section 1 -

Upon certification by the Arkansas State Board of Optometry, an optometrist certified as an optometric physician shall be issued an optometric physician certificate which shall expire at 12:00 midnight, February 1 of each year.

Section 2 -

Effective February 2, 1998, to renew the optometric physician certificate, the optometrist must submit proof that he/she has, during the preceding twelve (12) months, received a minimum of twenty (20) clock hours of continuing education. Of the twenty (20) clock hours, ten (10) hours must be in general and ocular therapy and pharmacology approved by the Board. The other ten (10) hours may be in any optometric course of study approved by the Board. Of the total twenty (20) hours required, eight (8) hours may be non-classroom type C. E., (only four (4) hours may be a COPE approved correspondence course). The full eight hours may be a COPE approved interactive (Internet) course.

Section 3 -

All renewal fees shall be paid to the Secretary of the Board before midnight, February 1 of the year of renewal. The renewal fee shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) per twelve (12) month period. Failure to renew shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of the certificate and/or fines.

Section 4 -

An optometrist, with a current optometric physician certificate, shall at all times display the certificate in a conspicuous place in the office of the holder thereof, and whenever requested, the certificate shall be exhibited or produced before the Arkansas State Board of Optometry or to its authorized agents.

Section 5 -

The optometric physician certificate supersedes the TPA (Therapeutic Pharmaceutical Agents) and DPA (Diagnostic Pharmaceutical Agents) certificate. All are not required to be certified as an optometric physician.

Section 6 -

Duplicate optometric physician certificates must be displayed in a branch office. The fee for the duplicate certificate for each branch office shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per twelve (12) month period. Renewal of the optometric physician duplicate certificate will be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). All renewal fees shall be paid to the Secretary of the Board on or before midnight the first (1st) day of February of the year of renewal. Failure to renew shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of the certificate and/or fines. The Certificate will expire at 12:00 midnight, February 1 of each year.

ARTICLE VI - Certification

Section 1 -

Any optometrist who has successfully completed all the requirements of the Arkansas State Board of Optometry may be certified as an optometric physician pursuant to Act 176/186 of 1997.

ARTICLE VII - Revocation or Suspension

Section 1 -

The Board may suspend or revoke an optometric physician certification of any optometrist who violates any of the provisions of optometry law, these rules and regulations, or Act 710 of the Acts of Arkansas of 1979, or Act 875 of the Acts of Arkansas, or Act 101 of the Acts of Arkansas of 1987 or Acts 176/186 of 1997.

ARTICLE VIII - PRESCRIBING ORAL STEROIDS

Section 1 -

Before an optometrist, certified as an optometric physician, initiates treatment for an eye disorder with an oral steroid, he must take a written detailed medical history including past drug reactions, medical/general health conditions, and current medications. This must be duly noted in the patient's record. If oral steroid therapy is indicated, the prescriber must be consistent with the standard of eye care as it relates to oral steroids. If the history suggests contraindications for the use of oral steroids, before prescribing a steroid, a consult with the patient's family doctor, a physician, or an ophthalmologist should be duly noted in the record.

ARTICLE IX - PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

Section 1 -

Arkansas optometrist licensed as optometric physician who applies for and possess a DEA number shall:

- A. Prescribe schedules III, IV, and V controlled substances only.
- B. Administer and prescribe controlled substances for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and conditions of the eye, lids, and adnexa.
- C. Not sell any prescription medication including controlled substances.
- D. Be responsible for knowing and abiding by all state and federal regulations pertaining to controlled substances with emphasis on the "Mid Level Practitioner's Manual",

published by the DEA, and all State Board rules and regulations pertaining to controlled substances. Record the names and directions of prescribed controlled substances in the patient's record.

E. Prescribe only the amount of controlled substance medication for four (4) days on one prescription.

F. Provide a written prescription to the pharmacy within 72 hours of a verbal prescription.

Section 2 -

A. Only optometrists certified as optometric physicians, and/or approved by the Board, shall apply for and possess a DEA number to prescribe controlled substances.

B. Optometrists not specifically approved by the Board to prescribe controlled substances:

- 1. Cannot apply for, obtain or possess a DEA number.
- 2. Cannot prescribe controlled substances without being in violation of state and federal laws.

ARTICLE X - Board Testing of Optometrists for Optometric Physician Certification

Section 1 -

Any optometrist applying to the State Board of Optometry for certification as an optometric physician must take and pass tests administered by the Board or its approved agent as follows:

- 1. A test including but not limited to; rules, regulations, federal controlled substance regulations, jurisprudence, impaired provider program and prescription writing.
- 2. Other tests as deemed necessary by the Board.

ARTICLE XI - Optometric Physician Laboratory orders.

1. A Board Certified Primary Care Optometrist (optometric physician) may order any procedure or laboratory test necessary in the examination, diagnosis, treatment, or management of disease or conditions of the human eye, lid, adnexa, or visual system.

CHAPTER VI

IMPAIRED OPTOMETRIST TREATMENT PROGRAM

ARTICLE I - IMPAIRED OPTOMETRIST TREATMENT PROGRAM.

Section 1 -

Any optometrist who is identified as being impaired or voluntarily reports his impairment, will be responsible for the following:

1. Paying fines for violations of law, rules, or regulations as determined by the Board.
2. Paying expenses incurred from determining impairment, approved treatment program, post treatment monitoring, evaluation of reports concerning impairment, and other expenses identified by the Board.
3. Knowledge of his board approved treatment program procedures, responsibilities, and consequences of non-compliance.

Section 2 -

An impaired provider may request a specific treatment program if that program is approved by the Board.

CHAPTER VII

REPEAL OF RULES

ARTICLE I

Section 1 -

All rules and parts of rules theretofore promulgated and adopted by this Board in conflict herewith be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Section 2 -

These rules being for the regulation and practice of optometry and the protection of the public, the provisions hereby are declared to be separable and the invalidity of any rule, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section hereof shall not affect the validity of the remainder hereof.

BE IT KNOWN that we, Robert W. Smalling, O.D., President, and Kenneth Hubbard, O.D. Secretary, Arkansas State Board of Optometry, do hereby state under oath that we have examined the minutes of the meeting of the Board officially convened on August 30, 2001, and the foregoing amendment to the rules and regulations was duly adopted by said Board and certified to the Governor of the State of Arkansas and the Secretary of State of the State of Arkansas, pursuant to the powers and duties invested in said Board by Act 94 of 1941, as amended.

Dated this 30th day of August 2001.

Robert W. Smalling, O.D. President

Kenneth Hubbard, Jr., O.D. Secretary