

**BOARD OF OPTOMETRY**

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Elimination of Board-Mandated Optometric Corporation Registration

Effective January 1, 2007, optometric corporations are no longer required to register with the California State Board of Optometry.

The enclosed "Optometric Corporation Registration Report" lists the Board's records pertaining to an optometric corporation registration with which you are affiliated. This notice is to inform you that you will no longer be required to maintain this registration with the Board. In fact, the Board will cancel all corporate registrations on or before May 31, 2007. **No action is required on your part to cause the registration to be canceled.**

However, we note that one or more Fictitious Name Permit (FNP) and/or Branch Office License (BOL) was issued to the corporation. Because the corporate registration will be cancelled, these FNPs and BOLs must be transferred to an optometric license or cancelled, whichever is appropriate.

If the information pertaining to the FNP and/or BOL is correct, the license(s) may be transferred from the corporation to optometric license(s). You may use the enclosed "Request to Transfer License(s)" form to transfer the licenses. The form must be signed by each optometrist to whom the FNP and/or BOL will be transferred.

If any of the information pertaining to the FNP and/or BOL is not correct, the licenses must be cancelled. In order to cancel the FNP and/or BOL, you must submit a written request to the Board. If you submit the application for a new FNP and/or BOL to be issued with the corrected information along with the cancellation, the Board will process the cancellation and application at the same time. Applications for BOLs and FNPs are available on the Board's website at www.optometry.ca.gov.

Although the Board is no longer requiring *registration* of an optometric corporation, the Board has maintained its authority to *regulate* optometric corporations and the Board may take disciplinary action against optometrists who are not in compliance with the law.

Please note that **Optometric corporations are still required to meet all other legal requirements** regarding officers, shareholders, directors, formation, etc.¹ Additionally, optometric corporations that advertise and/or practice under a false or fictitious business name must obtain a fictitious name permit (FNP) from the Board of Optometry.

We are enclosing two fact sheets entitled "Frequently Asked Questions – Optometric Corporations" and "Frequently Asked Questions – Fictitious Name Permits," which you may find informative.

We encourage you to check the Board's website at www.optometry.ca.gov for other updates, applications, fact sheets, and even to review your license records online.

Thank you for your cooperation as we implement this significant change in our licensing program.

¹ Requirements for optometric corporations are established in Business and Professions Code Sections 3160-3167 and Corporations Code Sections 13400-13410 and can be viewed in the 2006 edition of the "California Laws and Regulations Related to the Practice of Optometry," which is available online at www.optometry.ca.gov.