

 BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY
 GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

 DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
 CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY

 2450 Del Paso Road, Suite 105, Sacramento, CA 95834

 P (916) 575-7170
 Toll-Free (866) 585-2666



September 29, 2022

# NOTICE OF CITATION

See U Again Optical Attn: Patrick Lee, CEO 18203 S. Western Avenue, Suite 102 Torrance, CA 90248

Re: Case No. 420 2020 000186

Dear Mr. Lee:

You are hereby served with a Citation pursuant to Title 16, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 1399.278. Advertising Optometry exams and operating an opticianry without a current and valid Registered Dispensing Optician registration with the California State Board of Optometry constitutes violations of Business and Professions Code (B&P) sections 651(a), 3040(a), 2555.5(g), 2555.5(o), 2555.5(p), 2556.5 and 2564.91(a).

Section 1399.276 of the California Code (Code) of Regulations authorizes the Board's Executive Officer of the California State Board of Optometry (Board) to issue citations containing orders of abatement and/or administrative fines pursuant to the Business and Professions Code (BPC) section 125.9 against an optician who has committed any acts or omissions which are in violation of the provisions of law. Where appropriate, the citation may contain an order of abatement fixing a reasonable time for abatement of the violation. The sanctions authorized under this section shall be separate from and in addition to any civil or criminal remedies.

Enclosed is a copy of a Citation issued by the Executive Officer of the Board, which is hereby served upon you. All orders of abatement and assessments of administrative fines are to be complied with in accordance with the time specified in the Citation.

You have a right, by law, to request either an informal conference before the Executive Officer or a formal administrative hearing before an administrative law judge or both, to contest the findings of a violation. A request for an informal conference must be made within 10 days of service of this Citation. A request for a formal administrative hearing must be made within 30 days of the issuance of the Citation. You may be, but do not need not be, represented by legal counsel. If you wish to be represented by legal counsel, you are advised to contact your attorney immediately so that you may be properly represented in all proceedings. The Citation will be deemed a final order 30 days after the date of issuance unless appealed.

If you request a formal administrative hearing, your request will be referred to the Office of the Attorney General and a Deputy Attorney General will be assigned to the case. You will then be scheduled for a hearing, which may take up to six months to one year depending on the hearing calendar. The hearing will be held pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. The Board may, by majority vote, adopt, reduce or revise the administrative law judge's proposed decision.

If you request an informal conference, a conference will be held by phone to review the acts charged in the Citation and your efforts toward full compliance. The informal conference is a more expeditious process and will be scheduled within 30 days from receipt of your request. At the conclusion of the conference, the Executive Officer may affirm, modify or dismiss the Citation, including any fine levied or order of abatement. A copy of the Executive Officer's findings and decision will be sent to you. Unless an administrative hearing was requested in a timely manner, an informal conference decision, which affirms the Citation, will be final.

Enclosed are the forms for your use to request an informal conference and/or a formal administrative hearing. If you do not return the enclosed form(s) within the times specified above, you waive the right to contest this Citation. If you do not appeal the Citation within the specified time, the Citation shall be deemed a final order of the Board and shall not be subject to further administrative review. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please submit all inquiries in writing.

Sincerely,

Shara Murphy Executive Office Enclosùres

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Name:Lunettes Collection, Inc. dba See U Again OpticalDate Issued:September 29, 2022Complaint #:420 2020 000186

# CITATION

#### **Findings of Fact**

I

Sections 1399.275 and 1399.277 of Title 16, California Code of Regulations authorizes the executive officer of the California State Board of Optometry (Board) to issue citations containing orders of abatement and/or administrative fines pursuant to Business and Professions Code (B&P) section 125.9 for opticians who have committed any acts or omissions which are in violation of the Opticianry Practice Act or any regulation adopted thereto.

II

B&P Section 2555.5 defines the action the Board may take against or impose upon an unregistered opticianry who is guilty of unprofessional conduct.

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The Board's records reflect that Lunettes Collection, Inc. dba See U Again Optical has not been issued nor holds a valid Registered Dispensing Optician certificate to practice in California.

IV

During an investigation conducted by the Board, it was determined that, Lunettes Collection, Inc. dba See U Again Optical (See U Again Optical) is operating an opticianry in California prior to obtaining a valid registration, as required by California Law. See U Again Optical attempted to come into compliance by applying for registration as a Registered Dispensing Ophthalmic Business, formerly known as a Registered Dispensing Optician, on or about April 30, 2019; however, the application was not completed in its entirety and therefore expired on July 5, 2020. See U Again Optical has not submitted a new application nor do they hold a valid registration in the state of California.

Further, during the investigation, it has been discovered that See U Again Optical is advertising eye exams on their social media outlet, Facebook. The advertisement specifically states, "Eye exam for glasses only is \$20.00; Eye exam for glasses and contact lenses is \$60.00; Eye exam for glasses and contact lenses with astigmatism is \$80.00."

# Determination of Issues

#### Cause of Action

I

Violations exist pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections:

- 651(a) It is unlawful ... to disseminate or cause to be disseminated any form of public communication containing a false, fraudulent, misleading, or deceptive statement, claim, or image for the purpose of or likely to induce, directly or indirectly, the rendering of professional services or furnishing of products in connection with the ... business ... A "public communication" as used in this section includes, but is not limited to, communication by means of mail, television, radio, motion picture, newspaper, book, list or directory of healing arts practitioners, Internet, or other electronic communication.
- ➤ 3040(a) It is unlawful for a person to … advertise … the practice of optometry [which] includes the performing or controlling of any acts set forth in Section 3041.
- 2555.5(g) The use of advertising relating to opticianry that violates Section 651 or 17500.
- 2555.5(o) Performing, or holding oneself out as being able to perform, or offering to perform, any professional services beyond the scope of the license authorized by this chapter.
- > 2555.5(p) The practice of functions defined in this chapter without a valid, unrevoked, unexpired registration.
- 2556.5 Any person who holds himself out as a "dispensing optician" or "registered dispensing optician" or who uses any other term or letters indicating or implying that he is registered and holds a certificate under the terms of this law without having at the time of so doing a valid, unrevoked certificate, as provided in this chapter, is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- 2564.91(a) Individuals, corporations, and firms shall make application for registration and shall not engage in that business defined in Section 2564.90 before being issued a certificate of registration.

A cause for action thereby exists.

#### Penalty

In compliance with Business and Professions Code section 125.9 and California Code of Regulations section 1579, it is determined that:

L

Unless submitting a timely request for a conference (10 days) or hearing (30 days), within

the specified timeframe from the issuance of this citation, you are required to pay an administrative fine in the amount of **\$500.00** for violation of Business and Professions Code Section 651(a) and 2555.5(g), **\$500.00** for violation of Business and Professions Code section 3040(a), **\$500.00** for violation of Business and Professions Code section 2555.5(o), **\$1,000.00** for violation of Business and Professions Code section 2555.5(p), **\$500.00** for violation of Business and Professions Code section 2555.5(p), **\$500.00** for violation of Business and Professions Code section 2556.5, and **\$2,000.00** for violation of Business and Professions Code section 2556.5, and **\$2,000.00** for violation of Business and Professions Code section 2564.19(a). The total payment of **\$5,000.00** is due by <u>October 28, 2022.</u>

### Order of Abatement

The Board hereby orders you to comply with all statutes and regulations governing the practice of Opticianry.

You are ordered to cease and desist from violating Business and Professions Code sections 2555.5(p), 2556.5, and 2564.19(a). You must apply for registration as a Registered Dispensing Ophthalmic Business (formerly known as a Registered Dispensing Optician). Until such time that a valid registration is obtained, you must cease and desist from sending any prescription orders to any client. Proof of compliance that registration was made and completed must be submitted to the Enforcement Unit by **December 31, 2022**.

Further, you are ordered to cease and desist from violating Business and Professions Code sections 651(a), 2555.5(g), 3040(a), and 2555.5(o). Please remove all references to eye exams from all business circular advertisements, building advertisements, and social media sites, including Facebook.

Additionally, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 2552.2(a) "A citation issued for an order of abatement in accordance with Sections 1399.275 and 1399.277 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations *shall be posted on the front of the place of business of the dispensing optician*. The citation shall remain posted until the violation has been corrected. *The dispensing optician must also prominently post and make available its notice on any internet website it maintains that provides information about its services.*"

Please post a copy of the Notice of Citation and the Findings of Fact on the front window of your business and on your Facebook page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/SEE-U-AGAIN-Optical-2153176881570788/</u>. Provide the Board with proof of the posting by **October 6, 2022.**