March 18, 2022

Re: Violation of Selling Contact Lenses Without a License

To whom it may concern,

The Ohio Vision Professionals Board (VPB) came into existence on January 21, 2018. House Bill 49 of the 132\textsuperscript{nd} General Assembly consolidated the State Board of Optometry and the Optical Dispensers Board into the Vision Professionals Board. The Board oversees activities related to licensing of nearly 6,500 optometrists, opticians, and ocularists. In addition, the VPB is responsible for investigating any potential violations of Chapter 4725 of the Ohio Revised Code. Each year the VPB discovers that unlicensed individuals and businesses engage in the business of dispensing contact lenses without a license to do so. The act of dispensing contact lenses, even if these lenses are merely cosmetic in nature, is a violation of \textit{R.C. § 4725.54}.

The statute of \textit{R.C. § 4725.54} (B) states that:

- “If the board discovers or is informed that any person is or has been engaged in optical dispensing without having received a license under sections 4725.40 to 4725.59 of the Revised Code, it shall inform the prosecuting attorney for the county in which the alleged unlicensed activity took place. The prosecuting attorney shall take all legal action necessary to terminate such illegal practice of optical dispensing and to prosecute the offender under section 4725.41 of the Revised Code.”

Engaging in the unlawful dispensing of optical lenses can result in a significant fine or other harsher penalties. Our recommendation is to stop selling the cosmetic contacts \textbf{IMMEDIATELY} and return the contacts to the supplier. We encourage you to contact the Investigator at the VPB if you have any questions or need further clarification at 614.466.5116 or email the board with questions at \texttt{Board@Vision.Ohio.gov}.

Ohio Vision Professionals Board