

Ensuring Consumer Protection: A Closer Look at Fee Updates in Opticianry and Optometry

In order for the Board to continue to provide the strongest consumer protection measures, the Board has proposed and approved a series of fee increases. These adjustments effect nearly all of the registration and renewal processes, as well as additional certifications and course approvals. The changes are also essential in rectifying a structural imbalance that the Board currently faces, ultimately ensuring its ability to meet consumer protection objectives. This proposal was submitted to the Office of Administrative Law and approved on December 27, 2023, taking effect July 1, 2024.

New Application and Registration Fees

Registered Dispensing Ophthalmic Business

- Initial Application Fee: \$200—increased from \$150
- Initial Registration Fee: \$300—increased from \$200
- Biennial Renewal Fee: \$300—increased from \$200
- Delinquency Fee: \$50

Contact Lens Dispenser

- Initial Application Fee: \$200—increased from \$150
- Initial Registration Fee: \$300—increased from \$200
- Biennial Renewal Fee: \$300—increased from \$200
- Delinquency Fee: \$50

Spectacle Lens Dispenser

- Initial Application Fee: \$200—increased from \$150
- Initial Registration Fee: \$300—increased from \$200
- Biennial Renewal Fee: \$300—increased from \$200
- Delinquency Fee: \$50

Optometry Applicant Fees

- Biennial Renewal of a Certificate of Registration as an Optometrist: \$500—increased from \$425

Certifications and Course Approvals

- Application Fee for Approval of a Continuing Education Course: \$100—increased from \$50
- Application Fee for a Certificate to Treat Primary Open Angle Glaucoma: \$50—increased from \$35
- Application Fee for a Certificate to Perform Lacrimal Irrigation and Dilatation: \$50—increased from \$25

The Rationale Behind the Fee Updates

It is important to note that the fee updates are not arbitrary, but rather they are carefully calculated to align with the operational needs of the Board. By increasing fees for applications, initial registration, and renewals, as well as implementing delinquency fees, the Board aims to ensure a sustainable financial model that can effectively support its functions.

The primary goal of the Board is consumer protection. To carry out this goal, the Board must ensure it has the necessary fiscal resources. The Board protects consumers with stringent monitoring and oversight measures, which includes conducting thorough background checks, ensuring adherence to professional standards, and providing avenues for consumer redress in case of any grievances.

Certification and course approval fees are crucial in maintaining high educational and professional development standards within both opticianry and optometry. These fees contribute to evaluating and approving educational programs and certifications, ensuring that practitioners are equipped with the latest knowledge and skills. As these fee updates are implemented, the Board will continue to engage and collaborate with stakeholders, including opticians, optometrists, and educational providers, to foster transparency and ensure smooth implementation and minimal disruption to the professionals involved. For questions and comments, please reach out to optometry@dca.ca.gov.