

2450 Del Paso Road, Suite 105
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 575-7170, (916) 575-7292 Fax
www.optometry.ca.gov

To: Practice and Education Committee Members **Date:** March 17, 2017

From: Jessica Sieferman **Telephone:** (916) 575-7170
Executive Officer

Subject: **Agenda Item 3 – Discussion and Possible Action to Amend Title 16, California Code of Regulations § 1536 to Add Continuing Education Credits for Child and Elderly Abuse Detection Courses; Recommendations to the Full Board**

Business and Professions Code § [3059](#) (g), (h) gives the Board the authority to require courses on child and elderly abuse detection by licensees who are likely to contact abused or neglected children or elderly persons. Consequently, the Practice and Education Committee recommended the following amendments to California Code of Regulations (CCR) § [1536](#) during the August 28, 2015 Board meeting:

- (m) A licensee who, in the scope of professional practice or in the licensee’s employment responsibilities, examines, attends, counsels or treats children shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in child abuse identification and reporting in the previous five years.
- (n) A licensee who, in the scope of professional practice or in the licensee’s employment responsibilities, examines, attends, counsels or treats elder persons shall indicate on the renewal application completion of two hours of training in elder abuse identification and reporting in the previous five years.
- (o) The licensee shall maintain written documentation for five years after mandatory training as identified in sections “l” and “m,” including program date(s), content, duration, and proof of participation.

However, upon guidance by legal counsel, the Board referred the language back to the Committee for further deliberation and refinement regarding how these hours would count toward continuing education.

To assist the Committee’s discussion, legal counsel and Board staff drafted the following amendments to CCR § 1536 for consideration:

- (m) A licensee who provides or may provide optometric services to children shall complete two hours of coursework relating to the detection of child abuse or neglect and the applicable reporting requirements.
- (n) A licensee who provides or may provide optometric services to elder persons shall complete of two hours of coursework relating to the detection of elder abuse or neglect and the applicable reporting requirements.

(o) The coursework required by subdivisions (m) and (n) of this section shall be completed within the four years immediately preceding the license renewal date and shall be in addition to the coursework required by subdivisions (a) and (b) of this section, as applicable.

Action Requested:

After discussing the proposed amendments, please entertain a motion to approve the draft language and recommend forwarding to the full Board for its approval at the April 2017 Board meeting.