



Secretary Carol Aichele

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY



Continuing Education

According to the Practice Act/Law, all continuing education must be acceptable to the Board. In order for courses to be acceptable they must have been provided by a pre-approved provider or approved by the Board. Additionally, the Board will not accept course of study which do not relate to the actual practice of optometry, such as studies in office management or financial procedures. It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure that the CE courses taken are acceptable to the PA Board.

Common errors of CE management can be averted if you follow some of these suggestions:

1. Check that the course was given by one of the pre-approved providers listed in §23.86(a) of the rules and regulations, available at the Board's web page www.dos.state.pa.us/opt, or that the course was Board approved by checking the list under the links "Licensure Information" and "List of Approved CE Programs" from the Board's web page.
2. Check that the course content is acceptable under §23.83. The Board will not accept courses of study which do not relate to the actual practice of optometry, such as studies in office management or financial procedures.
3. Maintain your certificates for six years after the completion of any course.

4. If the certificate you receive after taking a CE course does not have the following evidence of completion, contact the provider immediately and request a reprinted certificate that contains all of the information - Name and address of licensee, dates attended, course title (and, if applicable, the course number assigned by the Board), the name of the sponsor and/or instructor. If you experience difficulty in obtaining a certificate of attendance, please contact the Board with as much of the information, listed above, as you are able to provide.
5. The Board may make exceptions to the continuing education program requirements in emergency or hardship cases. An exception must be approved PRIOR to answering that you completed the continuing education requirement during your renewal process. Please contact the Board as early as possible and maintain documentation of any claimed emergency or hardships.

Upcoming Renewals and Your Address

Each licensee should make sure that his or her current address is on record with the Board. This will ensure that renewal forms and all communications from the Board will be sent to the proper address and can expedite the renewal process. Licensees can check, and if necessary, change their address on the My License website www.mylicense.state.pa.us. First time users will need their registration code located on the Board issued wallet card.

Welcome the new Commissioner of the Bureau

On November 8, 2013, Governor Corbett nominated Travis Gery to be the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs and appointed him Acting Commissioner. He was unanimously confirmed by the Senate on January 28, 2014. As Commissioner, he carries out the statutory duties set forth in the Administrative Code and is responsible for directing the staff of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs charged with providing administrative support and services to the 29 Licensing Boards and Commissions within the Bureau's jurisdiction. He also serves as a full, voting member on 27 of the Boards.

Immediately prior to assuming the duties and responsibilities of Commissioner, Travis served as Executive Deputy Chief Counsel to the Department of State. In that role he provided legal advice to the Commissioner on all matters relating to the 29 Boards and Commissions administered by the Bureau. He was also the head of the Bureau's Legal Office comprised of 38 attorneys assigned to the Prosecution Division, 15 attorneys assigned to the Counsel Division and 41 support staff. As such, he supervised and directed the investigations and prosecutions of licensees for violations of the applicable practice acts and regulations, and the provision of legal advice and counsel to the 29 Boards and Commissions.

Prior to his appointment as Executive Deputy Chief Counsel, Travis was a member of a Philadelphia law firm where he litigated civil matters in State and Federal courts. He also has significant experience as a criminal prosecutor at Federal, State and County level. He was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia, a Pennsylvania Deputy Attorney General, an Assistant District Attorney in Cumberland County, PA, rising to the position of Chief Deputy District Attorney, and an Assistant District Attorney in Dauphin County.

From 1990 to 1993, while on active duty in the United States Navy, Judge Advocate General's Corps, he served as Senior Trial Counsel, Senior Defense Counsel, and Head of Civil Law at the Naval Legal Service Office, New London, CT. He is currently a Commander in the United States Navy Reserve. He has been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal twice, the Navy Commendation Medal twice, and the Meritorious Service Medal twice. He has also been awarded the Naval War College Diploma in National Security and Strategy.

Travis received his J.D. from Widener University School of Law in 1989, graduating with honors. He received his B.A. from Dickinson College in 1986.

He lives in Pottstown, PA with his wife and four children. He has no free time because when not at the office he and his wife are always either at, going to or coming from some gymnastics arena, ball field or other sporting event.

For more information and updates, check out the PA Department of State's

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PADepartmentofState>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/penndos>)!