



STATE OF NEVADA

## BOARD OF DISPENSING OPTICIANS

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### Who Are Licensed Opticians?

Nevada licensed opticians are specialized, independent health care practitioners who design, make, fit, and dispense prescription spectacle and contact lenses for the correction of a person's vision. These highly qualified professionals must apprentice for three years, complete nationally accredited education programs in optical and contact lens theory, undergo extensive hands-on instruction on dispensing contact lenses (medical devices regulated by the FDA), and pass two national examinations and a rigorous written and practical state examination before being licensed to practice independently. Consumers may file a complaint against a licensed optician with the Nevada State Board of Dispensing Opticians.

**NRS 637.0215 “Dispensing optician” defined.** “Dispensing optician” means a person engaged in the practice of ophthalmic dispensing. (Added to NRS by 1987, 601)

**NRS 637.022 “Ophthalmic dispensing” defined.**

1. “Ophthalmic dispensing” means the design, verification and delivery to the intended wearer of lenses, frames and other specially fabricated optical devices upon prescription.

2. The term includes:

- (a) The taking of measurements to determine the size, shape and specifications of the lenses, frames or contact lenses;
- (b) The preparation and delivery of work orders to laboratory technicians engaged in grinding lenses and fabricating eyewear;
- (c) The verification of the quality of finished ophthalmic products;
- (d) The adjustment of lenses or frames to the intended wearer's face or eyes;
- (e) The adjustment, replacement, repair and reproduction of previously prepared ophthalmic lenses, frames or other specially fabricated ophthalmic devices; and

(f) The fitting of contact lenses and the dispensing of prepackaged contact lenses pursuant to a written prescription, when done by a dispensing optician or apprentice dispensing optician who is authorized to do so pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

3. The term does not include any act for which a license is required pursuant to chapter 630 or 636 of NRS, and the provisions of this chapter do not authorize a dispensing optician or apprentice dispensing optician to perform any such act. (Added to NRS by 1987, 601; A [2003, 2011](#))

### Are There Unlicensed Opticians?

Unlicensed individuals may practice as opticians if they work under the license of a Nevada physician, surgeon, or optometrist. Consumers may file a complaint against such an optician with the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners or the Nevada State Board of Optometry, respectively.

**NRS 637.025 Applicability.** The provisions of this chapter do not apply to:

1. Ophthalmic dispensing personally by a licensed physician, surgeon or optometrist unless exclusively engaged in the business of filling prescriptions.

2. Ophthalmic dispensing by an employee of a licensed physician, surgeon or optometrist if the employee practices ophthalmic dispensing only under the direct supervision of the licensed physician, surgeon or optometrist and only as an assistant to the licensed physician, surgeon or optometrist.

3. A licensed pharmacist dispensing prepackaged contact lenses pursuant to the provisions of NRS 639.2825.

4. The sale of goggles, sunglasses, colored glasses or occupational protective eye devices not having a refractive value, or the sale as merchandise of complete ready-to-wear eyeglasses. [13:216:1951]—(NRS A 2003, 2012)

### Why Does the State of Nevada Regulate the Practice of Opticianry?

Healthy vision and good eyesight are essential elements in the overall life for all of our citizens. The pace of technological improvements in vision aids continues to accelerate. Expert guidance for consumers is essential to ensure correct and effective choices in eyewear designed to overcome vision deficiencies and safeguard their sight. Since the legislature created it in 1951, the Nevada Board of Dispensing Opticians has been dedicated to ensuring opticians have the expertise to accurately and efficiently fill corrective vision aid prescriptions written by eye doctors.

The State of Nevada--recognizing that Nevada's licensed opticians are important members of the business community, providing the competitive balance that keeps eyewear within reach of all our citizens-- regulates the practice of opticianry to safeguard good vision for all.