

**Tennessee Board of Optometry
Policy on Continuing Education Violations**

The rules of the Tennessee Board of Optometry require each Licensee to complete forty (40) hours of approved continuing education (CE) **during the twenty-four (24) months that precede the licensure renewal month (CE Cycle)**, as follows:

- A minimum of twenty-five (25) of the forty (40) hours is required in courses pertaining to ocular disease and related systemic disease
 - At least two (2) of these twenty-five (25) hours shall be a course or courses designed specifically to address controlled substance prescribing practices and must be obtained through a Board-approved course
 - A maximum of eight (8) hours may pertain to Optometric Business/Practice Management and/or ethics/jurisprudence
- A maximum of fifteen (15) of the forty (40) hours may be completed in multi-media/online formats
- Each licensee shall maintain current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in addition to the forty (40) hours described above.

In accordance with Tennessee Rules and Regulations 1045-02-.05, if a Licensee is found to be deficient in the number, type, or format of required CE hours for a reporting period, the Board will issue a Notice to the last known address of the individual stating the facts or conduct which warrant the intended action. The Licensee has thirty (30) days from the date of the Notice to provide proof of completion of the deficient hours and current CPR certification having been earned during the CE Cycle. **All hours must have been completed during the twenty-four (24) months that precede the licensure renewal month to be considered compliant for that CE cycle.**

If the Licensee fails to provide proof of completion - within thirty (30) days as specified in the Notice - of the deficient hours and/or current CPR certification having been earned during the CE Cycle, the Licensee may enter an Agreed Citation and be assessed a civil penalty. Civil penalties will be assessed in the following amounts in relation to the **deficiency** of the Licensee:

- Ten (10) CE hours or less = one hundred dollar (\$100.00) civil penalty
- Eleven (11) to twenty (20) CE hours = two hundred fifty dollar (\$250.00) civil penalty
- Twenty-one CE hours or more = five hundred dollar (\$500.00) civil penalty.
- Current CPR certification = twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) civil penalty

Additionally, the Licensee shall be required to complete the deficient hours. The deficient CE hours and civil penalties must be completed and paid in full within ninety (90) days of ratification of the Agreed Citation by the Board or be subject to additional disciplinary action.

The assessment of a civil penalty is considered formal discipline. As a result, the discipline will be reported on the Board's website and may be reported to the National Practitioner Data Bank.

Amended by the Board of Optometry on the 12th day of October 2022.

Amended by the Board of Optometry on the 6th Day of April 2022.

Amended by the Board of Optometry on the 14th Day of April 2021.

Amended by the Board of Optometry on the 10th Day of December 2010.

Adopted by the Board of Optometry on the 5th day of November 2008.