

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 430 CODE OF ETHICS, RULE 3-.01 CODE OF ETHICS
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

RULE 430-3-.01 Code of Ethics

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia State Board of Optometry (hereinafter “Board”) proposes an amendment to Rule 430-3-.01 Code of Ethics (herein after “proposed rule”).

This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule are being sent to all persons who have requested, in writing, to be included on a notification list. This notice, an exact copy of the proposed rule, and a synopsis of the proposed rule may also be reviewed during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except official State holidays, at the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. The documents will also be available for review on the Board’s website at [Georgia State Board of Optometry | Georgia Secretary of State \(ga.gov\)](https://www.ga.gov/boards). Copies may also be requested by contacting the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

The public will have an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule amendment at a public hearing to be held at **10:20 a.m., August 17, 2022**, in the Office of the Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. If the Board office remains closed due to the public health emergency (COVID-19), the hearing will be held via teleconference. Please see Board’s website for information on how to join the meeting via teleconference.

Interested parties affected by the rule may submit written comments to the Board no later than close of business on **August 10, 2022**. Written comments must be legible, signed, contain contact information from the maker (address, telephone number, email address), and addressed to Gabriel Sterling, Interim Division Director, Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division, Georgia State Board of Optometry, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217. Written comments may be faxed to (866) 888-71298.

During the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment, or offer a viewpoint or argument, whether orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted for the official record. Oral statements will be limited to five (5) minutes per person.

The Board voted to post this Notice of Intent at its meeting on **November 17, 2021**. The Board also voted that the formulation and adoption of this rule amendment does not impose an excessive regulatory cost on any licensee, and any cost to comply with the proposed rule amendment cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the

objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25 and 43-30-5. Additionally, the Board voted that it was neither legal nor feasible in meeting the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25 and 43-30-5 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(a)(3)(A), (B), (C) and (D). The formulation and adoption of these rules will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of Optometry.

According to the Department of Law of the State of Georgia, the Georgia State Board of Optometry has the authority to adopt proposed Rule 430-3-.01 pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25 and 43-30-5.

For further information, contact the Board office at (404) 424-9966.

This notice is given in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4.

This the 2nd day of May, 2022



Gabriel Sterling
Interim Division Director
Professional Licensing Boards Division

Posted: 5/2/22

**SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED CHANGES OF TO THE
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
BOARD RULE CHAPTER 430 CODE OF ETHICS, RULE .01 CODE OF ETHICS**

Purpose: The purpose of the proposed changes is housekeeping in nature, grammatical changes and replacing masculine pronouns (“his,” “himself”) with gender-neutral pronouns (“their,” “themselves”).

Rule 430-3-.01 Code of Ethics

The following Code of Ethics is hereby adopted by the Board to govern and as a guide for the conduct of licensed Doctor of Optomety in the practice of optometry in this state. Each licensed Doctor of Optomety shall:

- (a) keep the visual or optometric welfare of the patient uppermost at all times;
- (b) promote in every possible way the better care of the health needs of the citizens of this state;
- (c) enhance continuously ~~his~~ their educational and technical proficiency to the end that ~~his~~ their patients shall receive the benefits of all acknowledged improvements in visual care;
- (d) see that no worthy person shall lack for optometric care regardless of the financial status of the person;
- (e) advise each patient whenever consultation with an optometric colleague or referral for other professional care seems advisable;
- (f) hold in professional confidence all information concerning a patient and use such data only for the benefit of the patient;
- (g) conduct ~~himself~~ themselves as ~~an~~ exemplary citizens;
- (h) maintain ~~his~~ their office and practice in harmony with true professional standards;
- (i) maintain and promote cordial and useful mutual relationships with members of ~~his~~ their profession and other professions for the interchange of information for the advantage of mankind;
- (j) refrain from any exaggeration of a patient's condition.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25 and 43-30-5

Rule 430-3-.01 Code of Ethics

The following Code of Ethics is hereby adopted by the Board to govern and as a guide for the conduct of licensed Doctor of Optometry in the practice of optometry in this state. Each licensed Doctor of Optometry shall:

- (a) keep the visual or optometric welfare of the patient uppermost at all times;
- (b) promote in every possible way the better care of the health needs of the citizens of this state;
- (c) enhance continuously their educational and technical proficiency to the end that their patients shall receive the benefits of all acknowledged improvements in visual care;
- (d) see that no worthy person shall lack for optometric care regardless of the financial status of the person;
- (e) advise each patient whenever consultation with an optometric colleague or referral for other professional care seems advisable;
- (f) hold in professional confidence all information concerning a patient and use such data only for the benefit of the patient;
- (g) conduct themselves as exemplary citizens;
- (h) maintain their office and practice in harmony with true professional standards;
- (i) maintain and promote cordial and useful mutual relationships with members of their profession and other professions for the interchange of information for the advantage of mankind;
- (j) refrain from any exaggeration of a patient's condition.