

REGISTRANT AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

PROPOSED REINSTATEMENT AND CHANGING FROM INACTIVE TO ACTIVE PRACTICE POLICY

The College of Opticians is seeking stakeholder feedback on a proposed policy that will apply to opticians who are returning to practice after a period of inactivity. The Board of Directors will be meeting in June 2023 to review the feedback and make a final decision on the contents of the policy.

Why is the College creating this policy?

The College of Opticians is currently seeking amendments to the Registration Regulation. The proposed amendments were submitted to the Ministry of Health in June 2017 and are currently awaiting final approval.

The amendments to the Registration Regulation will result in a number of changes that will affect opticians who are returning to practice after they have been out of practice for any period of time (e.g. medical leave, parental leave, etc.). Some of these changes will include:

- The introduction of a new Inactive Class of registration for non-practising opticians. Inactive opticians will pay a reduced fee and will be eligible to return to active practice by demonstrating current knowledge/skills or by completing appropriate refresher courses.
- Opticians will no longer be permitted to remain administratively suspended for non-payment of fees for an indefinite period. Instead, opticians who do not reinstate their certificate within 3 years will have their certificate of registration automatically revoked.

The College is therefore creating a policy that outlines the steps opticians will need to take to reinstate their certificate of registration or change from the Inactive class to the Registered Optician class.

To read more about the proposed amendments to the Registration Regulation, click [here](#).

Reinstatement vs. Changing Classes

“Reinstatement” refers to the process of restoring a certificate of registration that has been suspended for an administrative reason – e.g. non-renewal or non-payment of a fee. The process for reinstating a certificate of registration may vary depending on how long it has been suspended.

“Changing classes” refers to the process of changing between different types, or classes, of certificates of registration. Under the new Registration Regulation, opticians will be able to change from the Registered Optician class to the Inactive class, or vice versa. A certificate of registration must be in good standing before an optician can change from one class to the other. This means that if a certificate of registration has been suspended, the optician must reinstate their certificate before they can change to a different

class of registration. Where an optician is changing from the Inactive class to the Registered Optician class, the process may be different depending on how long they have been inactive.

What will the proposed policy cover?

The proposed new Reinstatement and Changing from Inactive to Active Practice Policy will cover all circumstances where an optician is seeking to return to practice after they have been out of practice for a period of time. Specifically, it will address the following situations:

- Registrants who wish to *reinstate* their certificate of registration after it has been suspended for an administrative reason, such as non-renewal.
- Registrants who wish to change from the Inactive class to the Registered Optician class.

The policy will outline what steps opticians need to take in order to resume active practice, including:

- The information they will need to submit to the College
- Any required forms and fees
- How to demonstrate that their opticianry skills and knowledge are up to date

When will the policy come into effect?

The Reinstatement and Changing from Inactive to Active Practice Policy will come into effect when the Ontario Government approves the amendments to the Registration Regulation. The College is taking steps to ensure that the policy is ready by August 31, 2023, which is when the Ontario Government is planning to implement other amendments to the Registration Regulation that will create an emergency class of registration.

Links to Details of the Proposed Changes

A draft of the proposed Reinstatement and Changing from Inactive to Active Practice Policy can be viewed [here](#).

Click [here](#) to provide your comments or feedback by **May 14, 2023**.