



CANNON BUILDING  
861 SILVER LAKE BLVD., SUITE 203  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904-2467

STATE OF DELAWARE  
**BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY**

TELEPHONE: (302) 744-4500  
FAX: (302) 739-2711  
WEBSITE: [DPR.DELAWARE.GOV](http://DPR.DELAWARE.GOV)  
EMAIL: [customerservice.dpr@state.de.us](mailto:customerservice.dpr@state.de.us)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR MANDATORY DUTY TO REPORT

### Introduction

As a Delaware-licensed healthcare provider, you have mandatory duties to report under Delaware law. The Division of Professional Regulation is enclosing an information sheet similar to this one with the license renewal notices of all healthcare providers. The purpose of the information sheet is to explain the mandatory duties to report that apply to your profession.

To renew your license, you will be required to certify that you understand each mandatory duty to report explained below. Note that, when appropriate, the Division may keep your name confidential.

### Mandatory Duty to Report Medical Practitioners

Delaware law *mandates* you to report a medical practitioner when you reasonably believe that the practitioner is (or may be) guilty of unprofessional conduct or unfit to practice ([24 Del. C. §1731A](#)). The term medical practitioner means anyone who is licensed by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, including physicians, physician assistants, respiratory practitioners, acupuncture practitioners, and genetic counselors. Unprofessional conduct is explained in [24 Del. C. §1731](#).

You must file your report with the Division of Professional Regulation within 30 days of becoming aware of the information. The law imposes a \$10,000-\$50,000 fine for non-compliance ([24 Del. C. 1731A \(i\)](#)). For information on filing a report, go to the Division's website at [www.dpr.delaware.gov](http://www.dpr.delaware.gov) and click "Report Healthcare Provider" under "Services" on the menu on the left.

The law allows the Division to keep your identity confidential. It also affords immunity from civil or criminal prosecution for good faith reporting ([24 Del. C. 1731A \(g\)](#)).

### Mandatory Duty to Report Child Abuse

Delaware law also *mandates* you to make an immediate oral report to the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families when you know of, or suspect, child abuse or neglect under Chapter 9 of Title 16 of the *Delaware Code* and to follow up with any requested written reports ([16 Del. C. §903](#)).

You may report child abuse or neglect by calling the Department's 24-hour child abuse and neglect hotline at (800)292-9582.

The Department will notify the Division of Professional Regulation of child abuse allegations.

### Mandatory Duty to Report Colleagues

Delaware law [24 Del. C. §2123](#) *mandates* that you file a written report with the Division of Profession Regulation within 30 days if you reasonably believe that any other Delaware-licensed optometrist or other healthcare practitioner is (or may be):

- engaging (or has engaged) in conduct that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under the applicable license law
- unable to practice with reasonable skill and safety due to mental illness or incompetence, physical illness (including deterioration due to aging or loss of motor skill), or excessive use or abuse of drugs (including alcohol)
- guilty of unprofessional conduct