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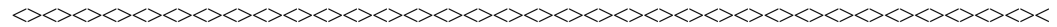
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TO: Florida Certified and Licensed Optometrists  
FROM: Len Schlofman, O.D., Chairman, Florida Board of Optometry  
DATE: December 2004  
RE: **Corporate Practice of Optometry**



The Florida Board of Optometry is aware of its responsibility to protect the public's health, safety and welfare by the careful regulation of optometry in our state. Towards that goal, I am writing to specifically remind all licensees of the requirements of Section 463.014, Florida Statutes, and Rule Chapter 64B13-3.008, Florida Administrative Code. You can access these regulatory provisions at: [www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/optometry/op\\_home.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/optometry/op_home.html) If you need a hard copy mailed to you, please call (850) 488-0595.

It is explicitly prohibited by law and board rule for any licensee to "engage in the practice of optometry with any corporation, organization, group or lay individual". Many optometrists in Florida may, therefore, need to evaluate their contractual relationships as independent practitioners to ensure compliance with these regulations. Practitioners who are unsure as to the legality of a contract can consult private legal counsel for an opinion or petition the board for a declaratory statement determination pursuant to Section 120.565, Florida Statutes (go to [www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/declarat.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/declarat.htm) for information). Petitions should be sent to the Board of Optometry at the address listed below, must state the particular statutory or rule provision about which a declaratory statement is requested, and how an interpretation of these regulatory provisions affects your particular set of circumstances. Failure to comply with Section 463.014, Florida Statutes, and Rule Chapter 64B13-3.008, Florida Administrative Code, may result in discipline of your license.

It is our goal to have all practitioners in substantial compliance with the relevant laws and rules which govern your ability to legally, and safely, practice your chosen profession. We invite you to join us in this endeavor by being knowledgeable about the current laws and rules and by attending meetings of the board which are held throughout the state. Information about these matters is readily available from the website referenced in the opening paragraph.

Thank you for your careful attention to these important issues to your ability to practice optometry in Florida. Please direct questions to (850) 245-4355 or [MQA\\_Optometry@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:MQA_Optometry@doh.state.fl.us)

ALS/jb/amj