

Tennessee Board of Optometry  
Policy Statement

The Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act (15 U.S.C. § 7601-7610), enacted in February 2004, requires the automatic release of a contact lens prescription to consumers and the verification of a contact lens prescription by prescribers for retail suppliers. Rules promulgated by the Federal Trade Commission to implement the Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act, referred to as the “Contact Lens Rule,” became effective on August 2, 2004 (16 C.F.R. § 315). (See the website of the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) for more information.)

The release of the contact lens prescription by an optometrist must meet the general requirements of the new federal law and rules. An optometrist is in violation of this Board’s statutes and regulations regarding professional conduct if the general requirements of the federal law and rules are not followed. The Board believes that sufficient information regarding the general provisions of the new federal law and rules have been supplied to Tennessee optometrists through the various optometric associations and media outlets.

Optometrists shall release a patient’s medical records or summary of upon a written request by the patient, but these records are not considered to be prescriptions. An optometrist may require a new examination and contact lens fitting examination if he/she is being asked to release or verify a prescription that has expired, according to the general provisions of the new federal law and rules.

**Adopted by the Tennessee Board of Optometry on August 20, 2004.**