

Improperly licensed KY optometrists can keep practicing

DEBORAH YETTER

KENTUCKY LANTERN

The board that regulates optometrists in Kentucky has filed emergency regulations to address exemptions from licensure requirements it improperly granted some optometry graduates in recent years.

But the Dec. 31 regulations, which took effect immediately, are drawing fire from critics who say they do nothing to explain the past actions of the Kentucky Board of Optometric Examiners or address whether optome-

trists who were exempted from mandatory exams are qualified to continue providing eye care to patients.

"Our focus has always been on patient safety," Dr. Jill Bryant, executive director of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry, or NBEO, said in an email. "We are deeply concerned that the people of Kentucky are still receiving treatment from improperly licensed optometrists who have never demonstrated that they can successfully pass national competency as-

sessments — and, in some instances, have repeatedly failed those assessments."

The regulation allows any optometry graduate from 2020-2023 who has not passed all required licensure exams to do so by 2027.

The board began granting waivers to testing requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic, citing travel and other restrictions. It continued to approve exemptions after the COVID emergency had ended, including in December 2023.

The NBEO adminis-

ters licensure exams for optometry graduates in all 50 states. The Kentucky Lantern reported in December that the national board had identified 21 optometrists in Kentucky who had gained licenses from 2020 through 2023 without passing "one or more" parts of the three-part national exam then required by state law.

Among them was Dr. Hannah Ellis, the daughter of former board president Dr. Joe Ellis, a prominent Kentucky optometrist active in state and national optome-

try circles. He abruptly resigned from the board last month and has not responded to requests for comment.

Several of the optometrists who had not met all requirements, including Hannah Ellis, were graduates of the University of Pikeville College of Optometry, which opened in 2016 as Kentucky's only optometry school.

Patient safety 'forgotten?'

The state board has not responded to multiple requests for comment from the Lantern and

has made little public comment apart from two brief statements on its website, the most recent announcing the emergency regulations.

The board "feels strongly that all licensees should possess the skills and knowledge to be granted a license," the Dec. 31 statement said in part.

But the emergency regulations fall short of that goal, according to the Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, which represents medical doctors who specialize in eye care.

LAND POSTING

105 Public Notices

ALDERDICE, Ben Sr. - Any and all properties in Pulaski Co. No hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling, no illegal dumping of trash, no cutting of timber, no trespassing. Not responsible for any injuries or accidents that may occur on properties located in Pulaski Co. 2/26

BAKER, Phillip No Trespassing 241 Cumberland Ave Somerset Ky 42503. No hunting, no four wheeling not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on property in Pulaski County 4/26

Blake, Angie and Burton, Timothy No trespassing. No hunting, guns or ammo. No tree stands or blinds. No bow and arrow hunting. No cameras or drones, this also goes for those tending land. Reserved for family members only! Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on any properties located in Russell Co. 09-26

Blevins, Deborah - No trespassing, no hunting and no bicycles. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that occur on any or all properties located in Pulaski Co. 05-26

BOWLING, William & Anissa - No hunting, no 4-wheeling, no cutting of timber, no trespassing. Not responsible for any injuries or accidents that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County & on Creekside Dr. Somerset, KY. 7/26

Bruce Denny - 675 Floyd Rd. Eubank KY. No trespassing, no hunting no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for accidents or injuries on any property located in Pulaski Co. 6/26

Buis, Douglas & Dianna - Absolute no trespassing, no fishing, no 4-wheeling, no horseback riding, no illegal dumping. Not responsible for any injuries or accidents located in Pulaski Co, Lincoln Co or Casey Co 10/25

105 Public Notices

Bullock, James and Janice. No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling, no illegal dumping and no cutting of timber. No responsible for any accidents or injuries on any property in Pulaski County 08/26

Burnett Farms - No trespassing, no camping, no cutting of timber, no ATVs, no hunting. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries on properties located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties. 1/26

Burnett Farms - No trespassing, no camping, no cutting of timber, no ATVs, no hunting. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries on properties located in Pulaski and Wayne Counties. 4/26

BURTON, Doren, Lisa, Lee Alice & Mike Hill - 999 Dry Branch Rd, 2398 Cedar Grove Rd, & 140 Richardson in no trespassing, no hunting, no drones. Violators will be prosecuted. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski Co. 03/26

Butler, Nancy M. Trust, No trespassing, no hunting. Not responsible for accidents or injuries of any kind on property in Pulaski County. 11-26

Calhoun, Curtins M and Julie Duvall. No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling, no atvs, no cutting of timber, no hiking or camping. Not responsible for injuries or accidents that may occur on any property in Pulaski Co. 10/26

CUMMINS, Bret No trespassing for any reason. No hunting, no trapping, no pursuit of game of any kind. No dumping of waste, no dumping of cattle carcasses, no tree cutting, no atvs, dirt bikes or 4wheelers, etc. No camping, walking or loitering and no placement of cameras. No free range chickens, no unleashed dogs, and not cats that are neglected by owners. Not responsible for any accidents or any injury on property. All violators will be prosecuted.

CHANAY, Roger & Bonnie R. 665 Mounce Rd Somerset, KY. No trespassing, No fishing, No ATVs of any kind. No swimming. To responsible for an accidents or injuries that may occur on properties in Pulaski Co. 02/25

105 Public Notices

Coffey, Bonnie - No Trespassing, no hunting, no 4-wheeling, no drones, no illegal dumping, not responsible for accidents or injuries on properties located in Pulaski Co. 07/26

Coffey, Opal 60 Augusta Ct - Absolutely No trespassing for any reason, no 4-wheeling or turning around in driveway. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on property located in Pulaski Co. 04/26

Cook, Sheila - Any and all properties in Pulaski County. No hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling, no illegal dumping of trash, no cutting of timber, no trespassing. Not responsible for any injuries, accidents or thefts that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County. 04/26

COOMER, Bernice & SMITH, Sunda POA - No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling, no cutting of timber, no illegal dumping. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that occur on properties in Pulaski County. 06/26

Cummins, Mary - No trespassing for any reason. No hunting, no trapping, no pursuit of game of any kind. No dumping of waste, no dumping of cattle carcasses, no tree cutting, no atvs, dirt bikes or 4wheelers, etc. No camping, walking or loitering and no placement of cameras. No free range chickens, no unleashed dogs, and not cats that are neglected by owners. Not responsible for any accidents or any injury on property. All violators will be prosecuted.

Cooper, Hobie & Jessica - No trespassing, no hunting, no game or livestock retrieval, no dumping, no cutting of timber. No ATVs, no horseback riding, no camping. Not responsible for accidents or injuries located on any property in Pulaski Co. 10/26

CUMMINS, Bret No trespassing for any reason. No hunting, no trapping, no pursuit of game of any kind. No dumping of waste, no dumping of cattle carcasses, no tree cutting. No atvs, dirt bikes or 4wheelers, etc. No camping, walking or loitering and no placement cameras. No free range chickens, no unleashed dogs, and not cats that are neglected by owners. Not responsible for any accidents or any injury on property. All violators will be prosecuted.

CHANAY, Roger & Bonnie R. 665 Mounce Rd Somerset, KY. No trespassing, No fishing, No ATVs of any kind. No swimming. To responsible for an accidents or injuries that may occur on properties in Pulaski Co. 02/25

105 Public Notices

COX, Robert & Theresa - Absolute no trespassing, no drones, no 4-wheeling, no hunting, no fishing, no illegal dumping, no unauthorized vehicles. Not responsible for any accidents on any property located in Pulaski Co. 04/26

CUMMINS, Joe D. & Judith A. - Any and all properties in Pulaski County. No hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling or bikes, no illegal dumping of trash, no cutting of timber, no trespassing.

Not responsible for any injuries, accidents or thefts that may occur on any properties located in Pulaski Co or Russell Co 09-26

FRYE LUMBER - Coomer Rd. No trespassing, no hunting, no ATV riding, Not responsible for any accidents or injuries on any property located in Pulaski Co. 6/26

DICK, Mary - No trespassing, Ohio St. No vehicles or bicycles of ANY kind allowed on property, no illegal dumping. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries on properties located in Pulaski County. 07/26

Dixon, Joey - No trespassing, no hunting, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on the properties located in Pulaski County 3/26

Dixon, Jonathan B & Angela - No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling, no cutting of timber, no illegal dumping. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries on properties located in Pulaski County. Violators will be prosecuted.

Denny Family Farm - No trespassing. No hunting, guns or ammo, no tree stands or blinds. No bow and arrow hunting. No cameras or drones, this also goes for those tending land. Reserved for family members only! Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on any properties located in Pulaski County. Hey 769 04/26

105 Public Notices

DENNY, Anita & Dylan - No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on any or all property located in Pulaski Co. 06-26

Denney, Billy and Sue - No trespassing. No hunting, guns or ammo, No tree stands, or blinds.

No bow and arrow hunting. No cameras or drones, this also goes for those tending land. Reserved for family members only! Not responsible for any injuries or accidents that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County. 12/25

Dye, Sharon - No trespassing, no illegal dumping, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on any or all property located in Pulaski Co. 3/26

Dykes, Maureen - No trespassing, no hunting, no ATV's, no horseback riding, no cutting timber. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on all properties located in Pulaski County. 06/26

DICK, Mary - No trespassing, Ohio St. No vehicles or bicycles of ANY kind allowed on property, no illegal dumping. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County. 11/26

EDWARDS, Gary & Linda - Hey 769 No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County. Violators will be prosecuted.

DOWELL, Volie; Dowell, Pam; and Dowell, Jentonda - No trespassing, no dumping, no cutting, no fishing, no hunting, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on any and all properties located in Pulaski County. Violators will be prosecuted.

105 Public Notices

DOWLING, Shirley - Property located on East Old Norwood Rd, Science Hill, KY. No trespassing, no 4-wheeling, no hunting, no fishing, no horseback riding, no camping. Not responsible for any injuries or accidents that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County. 06/26

Estes, Beverly and Campbell, Pamela - No trespassing on property known as the Lewis and Peggy Ruckel Farm. No illegal dumping, no hunting, no fishing, no cutting of timber without permission.

No 4-wheeling, no drones. Not responsible for accidents or injuries on any property located in Pulaski County. 08-26

Farms for Steve Foster & Sandy Frye - Faubush 1256 Cundiff Rd & 240 Barnes Knob Rd. No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on all properties located in Pulaski County. 03-26

GALLO, Dan & Line Creek Farms, LLC - No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on any properties located in Pulaski County. 11/26

Fitzpatrick, Charles & Anita - No trespassing, no dumping, no drones, no illegal parking, no hunting. All violators will be prosecuted to the fullest. Not responsible for accidents or injuries on all properties located in Pulaski Co. 04/26

Fleming, Rebecca - Amos Moses In, Nancy. No trespassing. No ATVs, no dumping. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on property located in Pulaski Co. 05-26

GOSSER, D. Mildred and Blackburn, Patricia - No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski Co. 06-26

105 Public Notices

Gossett, Kenneth, Warner Rd. - No hunting, no trespassing, no fishing, absolutely no 4-wheeling.

Not responsible for injuries or accidents that may occur on property located in Pulaski Co. 05-26

Harlow, Bruce - No trespassing, no hunting, no illegal dumping, no cutting of timber, no horseback riding, no loitering, no fishing. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski Co. 04/26

Foster, Larry J. - No trespassing, no hunting. Not responsible for accidents or injuries that may occur on any properties located in Pulaski County. Violators will be prosecuted.

Haynes, Ricky - No trespassing, no hunting, no fishing, no 4-wheeling, no cutting of timber, no illegal dumping. Not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur on properties located in Pulaski County. 06/26