

Administration of Executive Order 2020-17

On March 26, 2020, Governor Ducey issued Executive Order 2020-17, which allows agencies to defer certain license-related requirements under certain conditions. The following three portions of the Executive Order that relate to the Arizona State Board of Optometry (“Board”) license applicants and license holders are as follows:

1. A state agency can defer license renewal if requirements cannot be fulfilled online.

All Arizona State Board of Optometry license renewal requirements can be completed online; therefore, licensees must complete renewal requirements by or before the expiration dates on licenses.

2. A state agency can defer continuing education requirements if continuing education cannot be completed online.

Under A.A.C. R4-21-209(A)(2), Arizona licensed Optometrists may complete up to twelve (12) hours continuing education online. COPE is modifying its rules temporarily to allow CE providers to give live credit if they hold CE courses online due to health concerns and travel restrictions related to COVID-19. If any course that was previously offered as an “in-person” course is now recorded and available for viewing online, it will still be considered an in-person course and the hours will not count against the 12-hour limit for Self-Instructed Media CE courses. This includes any Non-COPE courses.

3. When a pre-license examination is required that cannot be provided via electronic or remote format, a state agency must issue a provisional license to an applicant, unless prohibited by federal law or regulation, if the applicant has met all requirements for a license other than the examination.

Pursuant to A.A.C. R4-21-203(C), the Arizona Jurisprudence exam is available remotely with an approved proctor. An applicant may contact the Board staff to obtain a list of currently submitted and approved proctoring sites or submit their own request for approval by the Board. No provisional licenses are currently being considered as the Board has all requirements for licensure available online.