

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION
BOARD OF OPTOMETRY**

In the Matter of:

**SHERRI BLENNERHASSETT, O.D.
LICENSE NUMBER ODTG00587
COMPLAINT NUMBER C15-220**

CONSENT ORDER

Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 5-35.1 and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, the Department of Health (Department), Board of Optometry (Board) has investigated a complaint charging Sherri Blennerhassett, O.D. (hereinafter "Respondent"), with violations of RIGL § 5-35.1, and R5-35.1-OPT of the R.I. Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Optometrists. After consideration by the Board, the following constitutes the Findings of Fact with respect to the professional performance of the Respondent:

1. Respondent is licensed as an optometrist in the State of Rhode Island and holds license number ODTG00587.
2. Respondent is employed at a medical practice located at 1532 Smith Street, North Providence, Rhode Island.
3. Pursuant to R.I. Rules and Regulations Pertaining to optometrists, R5-35.8.3.1, an optometrist with amplified therapeutic privileges may prescribe controlled substances in II – V in an amount that does not exceed a 72 hour supply.
4. Respondent has been issuing prescriptions for a controlled substance for a family member repeatedly for a period exceeding one (1) year.
5. Pursuant to R5-35.1, the foregoing facts constitute unprofessional conduct in the State of Rhode Island.

Based on the foregoing, the parties agree as follows:

1. Respondent is a licensed optometrist and is able to conduct business under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Rhode Island.
2. Respondent admits to the jurisdiction of the Department and hereby agrees to remain under the jurisdiction of the Department.
3. Respondent has read this Consent Order and understands that it is a proposal of the Department and is subject to the final ratification by the Department. This Consent Order and the contents thereof are not binding on Respondent until final ratification by the Department.
4. Respondent hereby acknowledges and waives:
 - a) The right to appear personally or by counsel or both before the Department;
 - b) The right to produce witnesses and evidence in his behalf at a hearing;
 - c) The right to cross-examine witnesses;
 - d) The right to have subpoenas issued by the Department;
 - e) The right to further procedural steps except for those specifically contained herein;
 - f) Any and all rights of appeal of this Consent Order;
 - g) Any objection to the fact that this Consent Order will be presented to the Department for consideration and review;
 - h) Any objection to the fact that it will be necessary for the Department to become acquainted with all evidence pertaining to this matter in order to adequately review this Consent Order;
 - i) Any objection to the fact that the Department reviewing this Consent Order may be the same as the hearing committee presiding over this matter should it later be brought to an administrative hearing; and

- j) Any objection to the fact that potential bias against the Respondent may occur as a result of the presentation of this Consent Order to the Department.
5. This Consent Order shall become part of the public record of this proceeding once it is accepted by all parties and accepted by the Department.
-
6. Acceptance by the Respondent and approval by the Department of this Consent Order constitutes an admission of the facts contained herein.
7. Respondent hereby agrees to this Reprimand of her optometrist license.
8. Respondent hereby agrees to complete one (1) continuing education credit specifically on the subject of controlled substance prescribing by optometrists. This is in addition to the normal required continuing education requirements.
9. If Respondent violates the terms of this Consent Order, Respondent shall be subject to further disciplinary sanctions.

8/2/15
Date

Sherr Blennerhassett, O.D.
Sherr Blennerhassett, O.D.
RI License ODTG00587

8/20/15
Date

Peter J. Ragosta
Peter J. Ragosta, RPh.
Chief Administrative Officer
Rhode Island Board of Optometry
Rhode Island Board of Pharmacy
Rhode Island Board of Veterinary Medicine

Ratified by the Board of ~~Pharmacy~~ on this 20 day of August, 2015.
optometry