

DECLARATORY RULING

The State Board of Medical Examiners has received a request for Declaratory Ruling concerning the responsibility of the operating surgeon performing cataract removal surgery to provide a pre-operative and post-operative care to a cataract surgical patient. It is the understanding of the Board that some pre-operative examinations and post-operative follow-up care is currently being provided by licensed optometrists.

The Board is of the opinion that it is the responsibility of the operating surgeon performing cataract removal surgery to conduct a pre-operative evaluation of the patient to include obtaining the informed consent of the patient. In addition, the operating surgeon should perform at least one post-operative follow-up examination of the patient, either during the recovery period immediately following surgery, or at a later date depending upon the patient's individual circumstances.

This opinion is limited to the facts and circumstances stated above.

ENTERED this 17th day of February, 1998.

/s/ William M. Lightfoot, M. D.
William M. Lightfoot, M. D., Chairman
State Board of Medical Examiners