

# TEXAS OPTOMETRY BOARD

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## **2021 LICENSE RENEWAL NOTICE**

**Renewal Period: November 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020**

The 2021 License Renewal Period will open on November 1, 2020. Renewal questions may be directed to [info@tob.texas.gov](mailto:info@tob.texas.gov). Online renewals are encouraged. If you renew via paper, it will take longer to process.

### **REMINDERS**

#### **TWO YEAR LICENSE RENEWALS**

- Beginning with this license renewal period, a group of one-half of the licensees will renew for two years and the other group will renew for one year.
- Licensees with a license number ending in an **ODD** number will renew for one year. The expiration date will be December 31, 2021.
- Licensees with a license number ending in an **EVEN** number will renew for two years. The expiration date will be December 31, 2022.
- Renewal fees will be different for two year renewals. The fee will reflect the two-year period.

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

- All licensees who renew for 2021 will need 16 hours of CE regardless of whether renewing for one year or two years.
- **12 D/T Hours:** Twelve of the 16 hours must be D/T hours. This is an increase from previous years.
- **Human Trafficking.** Every licensee with an active license must complete, a Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) approved, Human Trafficking course. The HHSC determines and approves the available course(s). At present, one on-line free course is available. Instructions: <http://www.tob.texas.gov/files/PDFdocs/HumTraflns.pdf>
- **Licensees who now prescribe or will prescribe opioids in 2021.** A one-hour course in best practices, alternative treatment options, and multi-modal approaches to pain management that may include physical therapy, psychotherapy, and other treatments is required to renew your license. Approved courses are listed on the Board's website: <http://www.tob.texas.gov/files/PDFdocs/OPIOIDCE.pdf>
- **Live hours: eight hours must still be live hours.** The Board allows licensees to obtain live hours from attending a live webinar. A live webinar is a course presented on the Internet which is held on a specific date and time, attendance is verified, and there is the ability of the speaker and attendees to communicate in real-time during the presentation of the webinar. Over 700 live webinar hours have been approved. Approved courses are in the "Live Courses" list on the Board's website:

#### **FINGERPRINTS REQUIRED**

- If you were selected for fingerprints this cycle, you should have received the notice either via email or U.S. mail. You will not be renewed if you were selected and do not submit fingerprints.
- Federal law prohibits transferring fingerprints. If you were fingerprinted for another reason (ex. gun permit), you **cannot** transfer your fingerprints to TOB.

#### **ANNUAL RENEWAL CERTIFICATE**

**Your renewal is not completed until you print your annual renewal certificate.** The annual renewal certificate is now provided online, available on the website 24 hours after license renewal. To download the certificate, click on the blue "Optometrists" button, and then scroll down to the "Renew License" heading. Use the same procedure to replace a lost certificate. Renewal certificates will not be mailed. If you cannot "download" the certificate, there is a chance that something is wrong with your license renewal and you should contact [info@tob.texas.gov](mailto:info@tob.texas.gov).