

AGENDA

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTOMETRISTS

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021
11:00 AM**

**Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut**

CALL TO ORDER

I. OFFICE OF LEGAL COMPLIANCE

- A. Ross Zeldes, OD – Petition No. 2021-220
Presentation of Motion for Summary Suspension – Diane Wilan, Staff Attorney, DPH

ADJOURN

This meeting will be held by video conference

Board of Examiners for Optometrists via Microsoft Teams

Join on your computer or mobile app

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Or call in (audio only)

[+1 860-840-2075](#) - Phone Conference ID: 741 049 971#

SUMMARY SUSPENSION COVER SHEET

In re: Ross Zeldes, O.D.

Petition No. 2021-220

1. Ross Zeldes of Stafford Springs, Connecticut (hereinafter “respondent”) was issued license number 002162 on August 7, 1987 to practice as an optometrist.
2. Respondent voluntarily surrendered his optometry license on March 11, 2014.
3. Respondent’s optometry license was reinstated pursuant to the terms of a Reinstatement Consent Order dated June 28, 2017. Said Reinstatement Consent Order placed respondent’s license on probation for four years and required respondent to submit to random observed urine screens during the entire probationary period.
4. On or about March 19, 2021, respondent tested positive for benzoylecgonine, a metabolite of cocaine.
5. For the foregoing reasons, the Department believes that respondent’s continued practice as an optometrist represents a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety. The Department respectfully requests that this Board summarily suspend respondent’s license until a full hearing on the merits can be held.

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH**

In re: Ross Zeldes, O.D.

Petition No. 2021-220

MOTION FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION

The Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") hereby moves in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut §§4-182(c) and 19a-17(c) that the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists summarily suspend the license of Ross Zeldes to practice optometry in Connecticut. This motion is based on the attached Statement of Charges, Affidavits and on the Department's information and belief that the continued practice of optometry represents a clear and immediate danger to the public health and safety.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 13th day of April 2021.



Christian D. Andresen, MPH, CPH Section Chief
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section
Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTHCARE QUALITY AND SAFETY BRANCH**

In re: Ross Zeldes, O.D.

Petition No. 2021-220

STATEMENT OF CHARGES

Pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §§19a-10 and 19a-14, the Department of Public Health (hereinafter "the Department") brings the following charges against Ross Zeldes:

COUNT ONE

1. Ross Zeldes of Stafford Springs, Connecticut (hereinafter "respondent") is, and has been at all times referenced in this Statement of Charges, the holder of Connecticut optometry license number 002162.
2. On or about March 19, 2021, respondent abused or utilized to excess cocaine.
3. Respondent's abuse of cocaine does, and/or may, affect his practice as an optometrist.
4. The above facts constitute grounds for disciplinary action pursuant to the General Statutes of Connecticut, §20-133 including but not limited to §20-133(8).

COUNT TWO

5. Paragraphs 1-4 are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.
6. On or about March 11, 2014, respondent signed an affidavit in Petition No. 2013-63 which voluntarily surrendered his optometry license.
7. On or about June 28, 2017, the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists (hereinafter "the Board") ordered a Reinstatement Consent Order in Petition Number 2016-339 (hereinafter "the Reinstatement Consent Order") that placed respondent's optometry license on probation for a period of four years. Such disciplinary action was based upon respondent's admitted abuse of cocaine, inappropriate prescribing of controlled substances, prescribing beyond the scope of optometry, and failure to maintain adequate medical records.
8. Said Order specifically provided in paragraph 3.b.(1) that respondent shall submit to random observed urine screens for drugs and alcohol for the entire probationary period.
9. On or about March 19, 2021, respondent tested positive for benzoylecgonine, a metabolite of cocaine.

10. Respondent's conduct as described above constitutes violations of the terms of probation as set forth in the Reinstatement Consent Order, and subjects respondent's license to revocation or other disciplinary action authorized by the General Statutes of Connecticut, §§19a-17 and 20-133.

THEREFORE, the Department prays that:

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists, as authorized by the General Statutes of Connecticut, §§20-133 and 19a-17, revoke or order other disciplinary action against the license of Ross Zeldes as it deems appropriate and consistent with law.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 13th day of April 2021.



Christian D. Andresen, MPH, CPH Section Chief
Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section
Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch