

**BEFORE THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(09)17

AND

JULIA ATKIN (01-18520)

DETERMINATION OF THE REVIEW: 26 JANUARY 2011

On 26 January 2011, the Fitness to Practise Committee of the General Optical Council met to review the Conditional Registration Order made regarding Julia Atkin on 8 September 2010.

DETERMINATION

Decision of the Committee

Patient A's date of birth was 18 November 1921 and on 10 June 2005, she had a cataract removed from her left eye. About six weeks after that on 27 July 2005, she had her first appointment with Mrs Atkin. On 3 August 2005, she had a cataract removed from her right eye. About four weeks after that on 31 August 2005, she had her second appointment with Mrs Atkin. Her first appointment was after the removal of the cataract to the left eye and the second appointment with Mrs Atkin on 31 August followed the removal of the cataract from the right eye.

On 14 September 2005, she had another appointment but that was with a locum at the practice. On 5 October 2005, she had her third appointment with Mrs Atkin, and her fourth appointment with Mrs Atkin was on 12 August 2006. On 15 February 2007, she had an appointment with Specsavers and she was referred to the hospital in April 2007.

It was as a result of Patient A's daughter bringing concerns about Mrs Atkin's treatment of her mother in 2005 and 2006 to the attention of the Council that the Council asked Mrs Atkin to submit herself to a performance assessment. That performance assessment was carried out by two performance assessors on 24 July 2008 for five patients.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Transcript

A full transcript of the hearing will be made available via the GOC website in due course.

Appeal

Any appeal against an order of the Committee must be lodged with the relevant court within 28 days of the service of this notification. If no appeal is lodged, the order will take effect at the end of that period. The relevant court is shown at section 23G(4)(a)-(c) of the Opticians Act 1989 (as amended).

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence

This decision will be reported to the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) under the provisions of section 29 of the NHS Reform and Healthcare Professions Act 2002. CHRE may refer this case to the High Court of Justice in England and Wales, the Court of Session in Scotland or the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland as appropriate if they decide that a decision has been unduly lenient and/or should not have been made, and if they consider that referral is desirable for the protection of the public. CHRE is required to make its decision within 40 days of the hearing (or 40 days from the last day on which a registrant can appeal against the decision, if applicable) and will send written confirmation of a decision to refer to registrants on the first working day following a hearing. CHRE will notify you promptly of a decision to refer. A letter will be sent by recorded delivery to your registered address (unless CHRE has been notified by the GOC of a change of address).

Further information about the CHRE can be obtained from its website at www.chre.org.uk or by telephone on 020 7389 8030.

Effect of orders for suspension or erasure

To practise or carry on business as an optometrist or dispensing optician, to take or use a description which implies registration or entitlement to undertake any activity which the law restricts to a registered person, may amount to a criminal offence once an entry in the register has been suspended or erased.

Contact

If you require any further information, please contact the Council's Hearings Manager at 41 Harley Street, London, W1G 8DJ or, by telephone, on 020 7580 3898.