

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY  
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
TRAINING ROOM 2  
HENRICO, VA  
March 7, 2017**

- CALL TO ORDER:** A meeting of a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Optometry (“Board”) was convened on March 7, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Center, Training Room 2, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23233.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steven A. Linas, O.D., Chairperson  
Clifford A. Roffis, O.D.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Amanda E. M. Blount, Deputy Executive Director  
Terri H. Behr, Discipline/Compliance Specialist  
Emily E. Tatum, Adjudication Specialist
- MATTER SCHEDULED:** Amir Ghassem Abyaneh, O.D.  
Case No. 172973
- Discussion:** Dr. Abyaneh appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of Informal Conference dated February 6, 2017, to inquire into allegations that he may have violated certain laws and regulations governing optometry practice in Virginia. Dr. Abyaneh was represented by counsel, Nicholas A. Balland, Esquire. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice with Dr. Abyaneh.
- Closed Session:** Dr. Roffis moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter regarding Amir Ghassem Abyaneh, O.D. Additionally, Dr. Roffis moved that Ms. Blount and Ms. Tatum attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.
- Reconvene:** Dr. Roffis moved that the Committee certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed

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meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened in open session pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code.

**DECISION**

**Case No. 172973:**

Ms. Tatum read the decision of the Committee to offer Dr. Abyaneh a Consent Order, with certain Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, for indefinite suspension of his license, with said suspension stayed contingent upon his entry into and compliance with the Virginia Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program.

Upon a motion by Dr. Roffis, and duly seconded by Dr. Linas, the Committee voted to accept the decision as read by Ms. Tatum.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The hearing adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

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Steven A. Linas, O.D., Chairperson

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Amanda E. M. Blount, Deputy Executive Director