

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
BOARD ROOM 3
HENRICO, VA
NOVEMBER 2, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER: A meeting of a Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Board of Optometry (“Board”) was called to order at 1:33 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Devon Cabot, Chairperson
Lisa Wallace-Davis, O.D.

STAFF PRESENT: Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director
Jessica Kelley, Adjudication Specialist

MATTER SCHEDULED: **Hien Gia Nguyen, O.D.**
License No: 0618000951
Case No.: 179317

PRELIMINARY MATTER: Ms. Moss reported that a Notice of Informal Conference dated September 26, 2018 (“Notice”) was sent to Dr. Nguyen’s address of record with the Board by certified and first class mail; and that Dr. Nguyen communicated to the Board in a letter dated October 12, 2018, that he would not be in attendance because of a conflict in his schedule. He did not request a continuance of this matter.

Based on the information provided by Ms. Moss, the Chair determined that proper notice had been provided to Dr. Nguyen; therefore, the informal conference would proceed in his absence.

DISCUSSION: Dr. Nguyen did not appear before the Committee in accordance with the Board’s Notice, nor was he represented at the informal conference by legal counsel.

The Committee fully considered the evidence before it and reviewed the information and documentation that Dr. Nguyen provided in his October 12, 2018 correspondence.

CLOSED SESSION: Upon a motion by Dr. Wallace-Davis and duly seconded by Ms. Cabot, the Committee voted to 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

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Special Conference Committee
November 2, 2018**

Hien Gia Nguyen, O.D. Additionally, Dr. Wallace-Davis moved that Ms. Moss attend the closed meeting because her presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations.

RECONVENE:

Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code, the Committee reconvened in open session and announced its decision.

DECISION:

Upon a motion by Dr. Wallace-Davis, and duly seconded by Ms. Cabot, the Committee made certain Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and voted to reprimand Dr. Nguyen and impose a monetary penalty of \$750.00.

VOTE:

The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Committee adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Devon Cabot, Chairperson

Kelli Moss, Deputy Executive Director