DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE OF THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF ONTARIO

BETWEEN:

THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF ONTARIO

-AND-

DR. LESTER GALEK

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE INQUIRIES, COMPLAINTS, AND REPORTS COMMITTEE OF THE COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF ONTARIO has referred the following allegations about you to the Discipline Committee:

- 1. Dr. Lester Galek committed an act or acts of professional misconduct as provided by paragraph 51(1)(b.1) of the Health Professions Procedural Code which is Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, 1991, S.O. 1991, C.18, as amended, in that, he sexually abused his patient, as set out in the particulars at Schedule "A".
- 2. Dr. Lester Galek committed an act or acts of professional misconduct as provided by paragraph 51(1)(c) of the Health Professions Procedural Code which is Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, 1991, S.O. 1991, C.18, and defined in the following paragraph of Ontario Regulation 119/94 and as set out in the particulars at Schedule "A":
 - a. paragraph 1.39 in that he engaged in conduct or performed an act that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable, unprofessional or unethical.

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A

HEARING pursuant to the provisions of the Health Professions Procedural Code (the "Code") which is Schedule 2 to the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, 1991, S.O. 1991, c.18 and the Discipline Committee's Rules of Procedure for the purpose of deciding whether you committed an act or acts of professional misconduct.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT a hearing will be held before a panel of the Discipline Committee of the College of Optometrists of Ontario on a date to be set.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT at the hearing a panel of the Discipline Committee will do the following:

- 1. Consider the allegations of professional misconduct;
- 2. Make its findings based exclusively on evidence admitted before it; and
- 3. Determine whether in respect of the allegations you have committed an act or acts of professional misconduct.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to subsection 51(2) of the Code, if the Panel finds you committed an act or acts of professional misconduct, it may make an order doing one or more of the following:

- 1. Directing the Registrar to revoke your certificate of registration.
- 2. Directing the Registrar to suspend your certificate of registration for a specified period of time.
- 3. Directing the Registrar to impose specified terms, conditions and limitations on your certificate of registration for a specified or indefinite period of time.
- 4. Requiring you to appear before the panel to be reprimanded.
- 5. Requiring you to pay a fine of not more than \$35,000 to the Minister of Finance.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to section 53.1 of the Code, if the Panel finds you committed an act or acts of professional misconduct the Panel may make an Order requiring you to pay all or part of the College's legal costs and costs and expenses incurred in investigating this matter and conducting the hearing.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT you are entitled to be represented by counsel at the said Hearing and to call witnesses and to adduce evidence in answer to the allegations set out in this Notice of Hearing.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT a member whose conduct is being investigated in proceedings before the Discipline Committee is entitled to certain disclosure of evidence pursuant to section 42 of the Code. To facilitate that process, you or your lawyer may contact directly the lawyer for the College of Optometrists of Ontario. The College's lawyer in this matter is:

Julia Martin Law 440 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 200 Ottawa ON K1R 7X6

Tel: (613)513-6735

Email: julia@juliamartinlaw.com

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT if you do not attend at the Pre-Hearing Conference on the date above, or on any subsequent date fixed by the Discipline Committee, the panel of the Discipline Committee may proceed in your absence and you will not be entitled to any further notice.

DATED at Toronto, Ontario this 15th day of May, 2024.

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRISTS OF ONTARIO

65 St. Clair Avenue East Suite 900 Toronto, ON M4T 2Y3

Joe Jamieson, M.Ed, OCT Registrar and Chief Executive Officer TO: Dr. Lester Galek

Schedule "A"

- 1. Dr. Lester Galek is an optometrist who has practised in Ontario since in or about 1988.
- 2. At all relevant times Dr. Galek practised optometry from his clinic at 282 Roncesvalles Avenue in Toronto.

Sexual Abuse of Patient

- 3. On or about August 11, 2022, attended at Dr. Galek's clinic at 282 Roncesvalles Avenue in Toronto for an eye examination.
- 4. During the eye examination Dr. Galek sexually abused by pressing his penis into 's knee.