



## Client information sheet

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Your optician has advised you that you are not eligible to receive an assessment record and that you must instead go for an eye health examination. This information sheet was created by the College of Opticians of British Columbia to help you understand why this has occurred and to address any questions you may have.

### Why you are not eligible to receive an assessment record

Opticians are required to follow provincial laws\* related to sight testing. These laws define certain circumstances in which you may not be eligible to receive your assessment record or to have eyeglasses or contact lenses made based on the results of a sight test. This can happen if your optician notices something during the sight test that they did not know about before the service began.

Specifically, your optician **must not** provide an assessment record or dispense eyeglasses or contact lenses based on an assessment in which they observed any of the following:

1. The refractive error of either of your eyes has changed by more than 1.00 dioptre (plus or minus) within the last six months.
2. The refractive error of either of your eyes has changed by more than 2.00 dioptres (plus or minus) since the date of your most recent prescription or assessment record.
3. Your refractive error is more than 6.0 dioptres (plus or minus) in either eye.
4. There is a possibility that you may require prism correction.
5. Your best-corrected visual acuity is less than 20/25 in either eye.
6. You are not satisfied with your best-corrected vision, even after your optician has performed two sight tests in one sitting.

If your optician makes any of these observations, they **must recommend an eye examination—a service that opticians do not offer**. Although your optician cannot provide you with a record of your assessment or produce eyewear for you at this time, they also cannot charge you for the sight test.

If you have any questions about the terminology used above, or other questions about sight testing, please ask your optician.

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\*The *Opticians Regulation* is a subsection of the BC *Health Professions Act*, which applies to all regulated health professionals in the province.