

LEGAL ADVICE | A PRO BONO PROGRAM

In co-operation with the Canadian Association of Optometrists (CAO) and your broker, BMS Canada Risk Services Ltd. Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP (“Gowlings”), one of Canada’s largest national law firms, is pleased to offer summary pro bono legal advice to all optometrists participating in the Professional Liability Insurance Program.

To ensure members are provided with superior legal defence in the event of a claim or complaint, CAO and BMS have retained Gowlings as the preferred legal provider for claims made under the Professional Liability Insurance Program

Members can take advantage of this service for questions involving issues such as:

- Privacy and Confidentiality;
- Conflicts of Interest;
- How to respond to requests for information from third parties;
- Inquires from your regulatory body;
- How to respond to a subpoena;
- Professional Misconduct;
- Ethical obligations; and
- Professional obligations,

If you have a practice related question and are participating in the Professional Liability Insurance Program, please contact the number listed below. When you make this call, you will receive a voicemail asking you to leave a detailed message. Please be prepared to provide the following information:

- Name, telephone number and address
- Certificate and policy numbers
- A brief summary of the issue

If you are calling from British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario or Quebec, then someone from Gowlings will get in touch with you as soon as possible. If you are calling from another province or territory, then Gowlings will make the appropriate referral to a lawyer practising in that jurisdiction.

The lawyer who you speak with will provide you with free, confidential legal advice in order to try and avoid or reduce the probability of a claim or complaint. Each telephone consultation is limited to 30 minutes per inquiry. The lawyer may consider it appropriate to review the issues and jurisprudence, and then call you back. The advice given will rely upon the accuracy and completeness of the information you provide.

In some cases, you may be asked to contact BMS directly as your issue may already have triggered coverage under your policy, in which case, legal counsel may be appointed to act on your behalf. If you have received a formal complaint or been served with a legal claim, please contact BMS directly.

About Gowlings

As one of Canada’s top national legal firms, Gowlings has a long history of representing health care professionals on a variety of professional liability cases. The Gowlings professionals who provide services to CAO members have significant experience in medical legal issues including, defending professionals in litigation arising from medical treatment and care; representing professionals in proceedings before provincial professional licensing bodies and providing advice to clients on other administrative and regulatory health law issues.

Contact Us

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