

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 16, 2024

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INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF TEMECULA OPTOMETRIST

SACRAMENTO – A Temecula optometrist has been arrested and is facing serious criminal charges for attempting to meet with a minor for sexual contact in San Diego County. The arrest is the result of an investigation conducted by the Department of Consumer Affairs' (DCA) [Division of Investigation](#) on behalf of the [California Board of Optometry](#). The case will be prosecuted by the [California Department of Justice](#)'s Cybercrime Section.

“Consumer protection is our highest priority,” said Ken Garcia, Deputy Chief of the Division of Investigation. “California has some of the highest professional licensing standards in the nation and it is unacceptable for licensed individuals to violate their responsibility of professional conduct.”

“Let me be absolutely clear: Using the internet to target children for sex is a reprehensible and despicable crime,” said Attorney General Rob Bonta. “If you go after our children, we will hold you accountable. I’m deeply grateful to our partners in the Department of Consumer Affairs for their efforts to help keep our kids safe. At the California Department of Justice, we will continue to use all the tools at our disposal to protect the children of our state.”

“The California Board of Optometry takes its mission to protect consumers very seriously. We will investigate every complaint we receive, just like we did in this case” said Gregory Pruden, Executive Officer of the California Board of

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2

Optometry. "I am proud of the multiagency effort and hard work that went into this investigation."

The Board received a complaint against the licensed optometrist in 2022 and referred the case to the DCA Division of Investigation. The investigation resulted in evidence that led to grounds for the arrest.

The mission of the California Board of Optometry is to protect the health and safety of Californians through licensing, education, and regulation of optometry and opticianry professionals. One of the ways the Board accomplishes its mission is by investigating consumer complaints and criminal convictions including but not limited to substance abuse, unprofessional conduct, incompetence, fraudulent action, and unlawful activity.

The DCA Division of Investigation is California's law enforcement branch for consumer protection. The Division's investigators are sworn peace officers and provide investigative services with the mission to protect California consumers and licensees by enforcing laws, regulations, and professional standards.

Click here to read the Department of Justice's press release on this case:

[Attorney General Bonta Charges Temecula Optometrist for Attempted Lewd Acts Upon a Child.](#)

It is important to note that every defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS: *The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) protects consumers through oversight, enforcement, and licensure of professions, and helps consumers learn how to protect themselves from unscrupulous and unqualified individuals. Consumers can verify a license and file a complaint against a licensee online at www.dca.ca.gov or by phone at (800) 952-5210.*