



Signature Eye Center

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League City, Texas 77573
(281) 337-3344

Notice of Privacy Practices Effective 11/09/08

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW THIS CAREFULLY. THE PRIVACY OF YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION IS IMPORTANT TO US. NOTE: 'SEC' PERTAINS TO 'SEC SIGNATURE EYE CENTER, LLC.'

SEC is required by law to maintain the privacy of your health information, to follow the items of this notice and to provide you with this Notice Privacy Practices. We will not use or disclose medical information about you without your written authorization, except as described in this Notice. If your state law provides additional restrictions upon any of the forgoing uses and disclosures, we must follow your state law.

How SEC May Use or Disclose Your Health Information

- **Treatment, Payment, and Regular Health Care Operations-** Information obtained by SEC will be used to dispense and provide prescription ophthalmic goods and services to you, bill your insurance carrier if you have third party coverage, and to record and monitor the service provided to you. Information will also be provided to you you're your request.
- **As and When Required by Law-** We may use and disclose your health information to Public Health Officials, Health Oversight Activities (for Audits, investigations, etc.), Judicial and Administrative, Deceased Person Information, Worker Compensation Programs, Food and Drug Administration (for reporting adverse drug events and quality issues), if there is a serious threat to your health or safety, in times of National Security, if you are in the Military or a Veteran of the armed forces, or if you become an inmate in a correctional facility.
- **Personal Communications-** We may contact you or individuals involved in your care or payment of your care to provide appointment reminders, annual eye examination cards, email reminders and notices and other information about treatment alternatives or other health-related benefits and services that may be of interest to you.
- **Disclosure to Our Business Associates-** We may provide some services through contracts with business associates (accounting, marketing, co-management, etc.). When necessary, we may disclose your health information to our business associates so that they can perform the job we have asked them to do. To protect your health information, we require our business associates to appropriately safeguard your health information.
- **Victims of Abuse, Neglect, or Domestic Violence-** We may disclose your health to a government authority, such as a social service or protective services agency, if we reasonably believe that you are a victim of abuse, neglect, or domestic violence.
- **Marketing Communications-** We must obtain your written authorization prior to using your health information to send you any general marketing materials. We may contact you about products or services relating to your treatment, care, or alternative treatments, or providers without prior authorization.

Your Rights with Respect to Your Health Information

- You have the right to request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your health information. SEC is not required to agree to the restriction that you request.
- You have the right to inspect and copy your health information (prescription, billing records, etc.) as long as SEC maintains the health information. To inspect or copy your health information, you must submit a written request to the location that provided your services. We may charge you a reasonable fee for the cost of copying, mailing or other supplies that are necessary to grant your request. We may deny your request to inspect and copy under certain limited circumstances. If you are denied access to your health information, you may request that the denial be reviewed. You have the right to request that SEC amend your health information that is incorrect or incomplete. SEC is not required to change your health information and will provide you with information about the procedure for addressing any disagreements with that denial.
- You have the right to receive an accounting of disclosures of your health information that we have made since November 9, 2008 for most purposes other than treatment, payment, health care operations provided to you, and certain governmental functions. You must specify the time period, a period of less than six years. We will notify you of the cost involved and you may choose to withdraw or modify your request at that time.
- You may request communications of your health information by alternative means or at alternative locations. For example, you may request that we contact you about medical matters at a different residence or PO Box. Your request must state how or when you would like to be contacted. We will accommodate all reasonable requests.

If you would like to exercise one or more of these rights, need additional information, or believe your privacy rights have been violated, contact Dr. Laura Vrazel Koehler at the SEC address listed above, or via email to Dr.Koehler@SignatureEyeCenter.com.

Changes to this Notice of Privacy Practices

SEC reserves the right to amend our practices and this Notice of Privacy Practices at any time in the future, and to make the new Notice effective for all medical information that we maintain. Until such amendment is made, SEC is required by law to comply with this Notice.