

**BEFORE THE FITNESS TO PRACTISE COMMITTEE
OF THE GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL**

GENERAL OPTICAL COUNCIL

F(21)24 & 32

AND

TINA STEVENS - (SD-9848)

**NOTICE OF INQUIRY
SUBSTANTIVE HEARING**

Take notice that an inquiry will be conducted in the above matter by the Fitness to Practise Committee of the General Optical Council.

A substantive hearing will be proceeding:

Remotely

The substantive hearing will take commence at **9:30am** on **Tuesday 03 – Wednesday 04 May 2022** by way of video conference or telephone conference facilities.

The Inquiry will be based upon the allegation submitted by the Council (see below) and will determine whether the fitness to undertake training of **Tina Stevens** is impaired by virtue of the provisions contained in section 13D(2) of the Opticians Act 1989.

Vineeta Desai
Hearings Manager, General Optical Council
15 March 2022

ALLEGATION

The Council alleges that you, Mrs Tina Stevens (SD-9848), a registered student dispensing optician:

1) On 21 January 2011 at Croydon Crown Court, were convicted of offences contrary to section 111A(1A) and (3) of the Social Security administration Act 1992 in that:

- a) Between 21 August 2004 and 10 November 2008 at Croydon, knowing that a change in your circumstances, namely that you were living as husband and wife with [Mr B], would affect your entitlement to benefit under any provision of relevant social security legislation, dishonestly failed to give prompt notification of that change to the Department for Work and Pensions in the prescribed manner;*
- b) Between 21 August 2004 and 15 December 2008 at Croydon, knowing that a change in your circumstances, namely that you were living as husband and wife with [Mr B], would affect your entitlement to benefit under any provision of relevant social security legislation, dishonestly failed to give prompt notification of that change to a Local Authority, namely The London Borough of Croydon, in the prescribed manner;*
- c) On or about 18 November 2005 at Croydon dishonestly made a false representation, namely on a claim form for Housing Benefit that the information provided was correct and complete, whereas you failed to declare that you were living as husband and wife with [Mr B], appropriate housing authority, namely The London Borough of Croydon with a view to obtaining a benefit for yourself;*
- d) On or about 11 December 2008 at Croydon dishonestly made a false representation, namely on a claim form for Housing Benefit that the information provided was correct and complete, whereas you failed to declare that you were living as husband and wife with [Mr B], appropriate housing authority, namely the London Borough of Croydon with a view to obtaining a benefit for yourself.*

2) On 1 July 2019, when completing your student registration application with the GOC you failed to declare that, on 21 January 2011 at Croydon Crown Court, were convicted of offences contrary to section 111A(1A) and (3) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992;

3) On 6 July 2020, when completing your student retention application with the GOC, you failed to declare that, on 21 January 2011 at Croydon Crown Court, were convicted of offences contrary to section 111A(1A) and (3) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992;

4) Your conduct set out at (2) and/or (3) above was dishonest in that you knew, or ought to have known, that you were required to provide details of your convictions to the GOC and did not do so;

And by virtue of the facts set out above, your fitness to undertake training is impaired by reason of misconduct/ conviction.

Committee Members: Ms Valerie Paterson (Lay/Chair)
Mr Paul Curtis (Lay)
Ms Vivienne Geary (Lay)
Mr Simon Pinnington (Dispensing Optician)
Mr Ian Taylor (Dispensing Optician)

Legal Adviser: Ms Margaret Obi

Hearings Officer: TBC

Transcribers: Marten Walsh Cherer Limited

If you require further information relating to this hearing, please contact the Council's Hearings Manager at hearings@optical.org.