



Board for Barbers and Cosmetology

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Regulations, statutes, applications, and other information pertaining to the Board may be accessed on the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation website.

Go to www.dpor.virginia.gov

From the menu on the left side select Licensing and Regulations (Boards)

Select Board Websites

Select Cosmetology, Barbers, Tattooing, or Body Piercing

This will take you to the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology page

1. Q: Can I use my license from another state to practice in Virginia?

A: No. Section 54.1-703 of the Code of Virginia mandates a Virginia license.

§ 54.1-703. License required.

No person shall offer to engage in or engage in barbering, cosmetology, nail care, waxing, hair braiding, tattooing, body-piercing, or esthetics without a valid license issued by the Board, except as provided in § 54.1-701.

2. Q: How do I transfer my license from another state to Virginia?

A: To obtain a license in Virginia based on holding a current valid license in another state you must submit an application for a Virginia license through endorsement. Examination requirements for licensure in Virginia by endorsement are based on examinations previously completed for licensure in other states.

To apply, submit completed Virginia Endorsement Application and application fee, and request the licensing authority in the state where you are currently licensed to mail a Certification of Licensure to Virginia Board for Barbers and Cosmetology, 9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 400, Richmond, Virginia 23233-1485

If you received your original licensure in a state other than the state where you are currently licensed have that state licensing authority mail a Certification of Licensure to

the Virginia Board for this certification would indicate your instruction/training and examinations completed for licensure.

Refer to Virginia regulations for hours of instruction and training for a license. If less completed for licensure, also complete and include with the application the Training and Experience Verification Form to provide experience verification or two reference letters verifying at least 6 months of work experience prior to coming to Virginia.

3. Q: How do I obtain licensure in another state based on my Virginia license?

A: Contact the state or jurisdiction you wish to become licensed in.

4. Q: My renewal payment was 1 day late can the reinstatement fee be waived?

A: No. The date of receipt by the board or its agent is the date which will be used to determine whether or not it is on time. Any licensee who fails to renew within 30 days after the **expiration date on the license** shall be required to pay reinstatement fee.

5. Q: My reinstatement payment was 1 day late can the reinstatement fee be accepted

A: No. The date of receipt by the board or its agent is the date which will be used to determine whether or not it is on time. Any licensee who fails to renew within 2 years after the **expiration date on the license** shall be required to apply as a new applicant.

6. Q: May I apply for a temporary license?

A: Yes. A temporary permit to work under the supervision of a currently licensed practitioner may be issued to applicants for initial licensure who are eligible and scheduled for examination.

Cosmetologists, nail technicians, and barbers please refer to Section 18 VAC 41-30-90 of the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology Regulations.

Hair braiders please refer to Section 18 VAC 41-30-80 of the Hair Braider Regulations.

Wax technicians please refer to Section 18 VAC 41-40-80 of the Wax Technician Regulations.

Estheticians please refer to Section 18 VAC 41-70-70 of the Esthetics Regulations.

7. Q: I need a letter of certification fast; if I come in with my certification fee may I wait for it to be processed?

A: Although staff makes every effort to get letters of certification out in five business days, officially, our turnaround time is 30 days. Certifications are done in the order they are received.

8. Q: Do I need a license to render waxing services

A: Yes. Persons performing waxing services must hold a wax technician license, cosmetologist license, or esthetician license issued by the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology.

§ 54.1-703. License required.

No person shall offer to engage in or engage in barbering, cosmetology, nail care, waxing, hair braiding, tattooing, body-piercing, or esthetics without a valid license issued by the Board, except as provided in § 54.1-701.

9. Q: Can a nail technician provide waxing services?

A: No. A nail technician license does not authorize the performance of waxing services. A nail technician must also be licensed as a wax technician in order to provide waxing services.

§ 54.1-700. Definitions. of the Code of Virginia includes

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Nail care" means manicuring or pedicuring natural nails or performing artificial nail services.

"Nail salon" means any commercial establishment, residence, vehicle or other establishment, place or event wherein nail care is offered or practiced on a regular basis for compensation and may include the training of apprentices under regulations of the Board.

"Nail technician" means any person who for compensation manicures or pedicures natural nails, or who performs artificial nail services for compensation, or any combination thereof.

10. Q: Are Estheticians licensed in Virginia?

A: Yes. Section 54.1-703 of the Code of Virginia mandates license required for esthetics.

§ 54.1-703. License required.

No person shall offer to engage in or engage in barbering, cosmetology, nail care, waxing, hair braiding, tattooing, body-piercing, or esthetics without a valid license issued by the Board, except as provided in § 54.1-701.

11. Q: Are Electrologists licensed in Virginia?

A: No. Electrologists are not licensed in Virginia.

12. Q: Do I need a license for tattooing?

A: Yes. Section 54.1-703 of the Code of Virginia mandates license required for tattooing.

§ 54.1-703. License required.

No person shall offer to engage in or engage in barbering, cosmetology, nail care, waxing, hair braiding, tattooing, body-piercing, or esthetics without a valid license issued by the Board, except as provided in § 54.1-701.

13. Q: Do I need a license for body piercing?

A: Yes. Section 54.1-703 of the Code of Virginia mandates license required for body piercing.

§ 54.1-703. License required.

No person shall offer to engage in or engage in barbering, cosmetology, nail care, waxing, hair braiding, tattooing, body-piercing, or esthetics without a valid license issued by the Board, except as provided in § 54.1-701.

14. Q: Do tattoo parlors that offer body piercing services need a body piercing salon license?

A: Yes, tattoo parlors are not authorized to provide body piercing services as defined in the Code of Virginia. A body piercing salon license is required for businesses that provide body piercing services. Refer to Sections 54.1-700 and 54.1-704.1 of the Code of Virginia.

§ 54.1-700. Definitions. of the Code of Virginia includes

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

§ 54.1-700. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Body-piercing" means the act of penetrating the skin of a person to make a hole, mark, or scar, generally permanent in nature.

"Body-piercing salon" means any place in which a fee is charged for the act of penetrating the skin of a person to make a hole, mark, or scar, generally permanent in nature.

"Tattoo parlor" means any place in which tattooing is offered or practiced.

"Tattooing" means the placing of designs, letters, scrolls, figures, symbols or any other marks upon or under the skin of any person with ink or any other substance, resulting in the permanent coloration of the skin, including permanent make-up or permanent jewelry, by the aid of needles or any other instrument designed to touch or puncture the skin.

§ 54.1-704.1. License required for barbershop, cosmetology salon, nail care salon, waxing salon, hair braiding salon, tattoo parlor, body-piercing salon, and esthetics spa.

No individual or entity shall operate a barbershop, cosmetology salon, nail care salon, waxing salon, hair braiding salon, tattoo parlor, body-piercing salon, or esthetics spa without a valid license issued by the Board.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to a licensed barber, cosmetologist, nail technician, waxing technician, tattooer, body-piercer, or esthetician who does not have an ownership interest in a licensed barbershop, cosmetology salon, nail care salon, waxing salon, hair braiding salon, tattoo parlor, body-piercing salon, or esthetics spa in which he is employed.

15. Q: Do I need a license to braid hair only?

A: Yes. Section 54.1-703 of the Code of Virginia mandates license required for hair braiding.

§ 54.1-703. License required.

No person shall offer to engage in or engage in barbering, cosmetology, nail care, waxing, hair braiding, tattooing, body-piercing, or esthetics without a valid license issued by the Board, except as provided in § 54.1-701.

A Virginia cosmetologist license authorizes the performance of hair braiding.

16. Q: Do I need to be a licensed practitioner to own a cosmetology salon, barber shop, nail salon, waxing salon, esthetics spa, tattoo parlor, or body piercing salon?

A: No, ownership does not require a practitioner license. Provided you will not perform any services you do not need an individual practitioner license to open a business.

17. Q: Can I provide cosmetology services in my home?

A: Yes, provided you have a current cosmetologist license and a current cosmetology salon license and in compliance with the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology Regulations and comply with the Department of Health and any federal, state laws and local ordinances.

18. Q: Do cosmetology salons that offer esthetic services need an esthetics spa license?

A: Yes, cosmetology salons are not authorized to provide esthetics services as defined in the Code of Virginia. An esthetics spa license is required for businesses that provide esthetics services. Refer to Sections 54.1-700 and 54.1-704.1 of the Code of Virginia.

§ 54.1-700. Definitions. of the Code of Virginia includes

As used in this chapter, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Cosmetology" includes, but is not limited to, the following practices: administering cosmetic treatments; manicuring or pedicuring the nails of any person; arranging, braiding, dressing, curling, waving, cleansing, cutting, shaping, singeing, waxing, tweezing, shaving, bleaching, coloring, relaxing, straightening, or similar work, upon human hair, or a wig or hairpiece, by any means, including hands or mechanical or electrical apparatus or appliances, but shall not include such acts as adjusting, combing, or brushing prestyled wigs or hairpieces when such acts do not alter the prestyled nature of the wig or hairpiece.

"Cosmetology salon" means any commercial establishment, residence, vehicle or other establishment, place or event wherein cosmetology is offered or practiced on a regular basis for compensation and may include the training of apprentices under regulations of the Board.

"Esthetics" includes, but is not limited to, the following practices of administering cosmetic treatments to enhance or improve the appearance of the skin: cleansing, toning, performing effleurage or other related movements, stimulating, exfoliating, or performing any other similar procedure on the skin of the human body or scalp by means of cosmetic preparations, treatments, any nonlaser device, electrical, mechanical, or manual, for care of the skin; applying make-up or eyelashes to any person, tinting or perming eyelashes and eyebrows, and lightening hair on the body except the scalp; and removing unwanted hair from the body of any person by the use of tweezing, chemical, or mechanical means. However, "esthetics" is not a healing art and shall not include any practice, activity, or treatment that constitutes the practice of medicine, osteopathic medicine, or chiropractic. The terms "healing arts," "practice of medicine," "practice of osteopathic medicine," and "practice of chiropractic" shall mean the same as those terms are defined in § 54.1-2900.

"Esthetics spa" means any commercial establishment, residence, vehicle, or other establishment, place, or event wherein esthetics is offered or practiced on a regular basis for compensation under regulations of the Board.

§ 54.1-704.1. License required for barbershop, cosmetology salon, nail care salon, waxing salon, hair braiding salon, tattoo parlor, body-piercing salon, and esthetics spa.

No individual or entity shall operate a barbershop, cosmetology salon, nail care salon, waxing salon, hair braiding salon, tattoo parlor, body-piercing salon, or esthetics spa without a valid license issued by the Board.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to a licensed barber, cosmetologist, nail technician, waxing technician, tattooer, body-piercer, or esthetician who does not have an

ownership interest in a licensed barbershop, cosmetology salon, nail care salon, waxing salon, hair braiding salon, tattoo parlor, body-piercing salon, or esthetics spa in which he is employed.

19. Q: How do I become a tattooing apprentice?

A: Submit Tattooer Apprenticeship Certification Application and the Apprenticeship Agreement to the Board. Apprenticeship sponsor must be licensed tattooer designated as an apprenticeship sponsor and the apprenticeship must be conducted in accordance with the Standards of Apprenticeship for Tattooers in a licensed tattoo parlor.

20. Q: How do I become a body piercing apprentice?

A: Submit Body Piercing Apprenticeship Certification Application and the Apprenticeship Agreement to the Board. Apprenticeship sponsor must be licensed body piercer designated as an apprenticeship sponsor and the apprenticeship must be conducted in accordance with the Standards of Apprenticeship for Body Piercing in a licensed body piercing salon.

21. Q: How do I become a cosmetology, barber, or nail technician apprentice?

A: Apprenticeships are conducted through the Department of Labor and Industry. You will need to contact the Department of Labor and Industry directly to receive information regarding being an apprentice. Their contact information follows:

Virginia Registered Apprenticeship
Virginia Department of Labor and Industry
Attention: Apprenticeship Training
Powers-Taylor Building
13 South Thirteenth Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
Phone: (804) 786-2382
Fax: (804) 786-8418
E-mail: apprenticeship@doli.virginia.gov
Website: <http://www.doli.virginia.gov>

Go to www.doli.virginia.gov
Select DOLI Programs What We Do
Under Registered Apprenticeship, select Representatives
Locate the representative serving your area