

New Jersey State Board of Cosmetology & Hairstyling

consumer *brief*

The Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling was created to protect New Jersey consumers who avail themselves of the services regulated by the Board and to promulgate and enforce regulations relating to the practice of cosmetology and hairstyling, barbering and beauty culture.

The Board consists of 11 individuals who must be residents of New Jersey. The members of the Board are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Six of the 11 members must hold practicing licenses issued by the Board and must have been engaged in the practice of beauty culture, barbering, or cosmetology and hairstyling for at least five years prior to their appointment. One of the 11 members must hold a teacher's license issued by the Board of Beauty Culture Control or by the New Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, and must have been involved in the conduct of a licensed school in New Jersey for at least five years prior to the appointment. Of the remaining four members, three must be public members and one must be a state executive department member.

PURPOSE AND COMMITMENT OF THE BOARD

- The Board promulgates and enforces the regulations relating to the practice of cosmetology and hairstyling, barbering and beauty culture; the premises at which those services are rendered; and the schools at which instruction in those practices may be obtained.

More than 70,510 beauticians, barbers, cosmetologist-hairstylists, skin care specialists and manicurists are licensed by the Board. More than 9,237 shops, 702 cosmetology- hairstyling teachers and 28 schools are also licensed by the Board.

AS A CUSTOMER, WHAT CAN I EXPECT OF A BEAUTY SHOP?

1. Cleanliness

The overall appearance of the shop is important.

- Tables and floors should be clean;
- Towels must be changed after each customer;
- Clean towels should be stored in a closed container (they should not be placed on an open shelf or on the floor);
- Dirty towels should be kept in a separate, closed container;
- All tools and electrical appliances must be maintained in a safe and sanitary manner;
- A new or sanitized emery board must be used for each customer; and

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- Implements such as cuticle nippers, pushers or nail clippers must be displayed on the manicuring table in a small, wet sanitizer. The sanitizer should contain a chemical disinfectant, such as barbicide or 70% alcohol. Whichever chemical is being used in the sanitizer, it must be registered by the Environmental Protection Agency as “tuberculocidal” or effective against H.I.V. and Hepatitis B. The implements should be sanitized in accordance with the sanitizer product manufacturer’s instructions and must be free of nails or skin particles.
- Work areas should be maintained in a sanitary condition; and
- Pets are not permitted on the premises.

2. Ventilation

Shops, particularly nail salons, should be adequately ventilated to eliminate any strong smell of chemicals.

3. Smoke-free

Smoking in a salon is not permitted, by clients or operators, while rendering or receiving services. However, the salon may have a designated area where smoking is permissible.

4. Prices

Prices are not regulated by the Board but a price list must be displayed in the shop, usually by the reception desk. You have the right to ask how much you will be charged for each service.

5. Posted licenses

In New Jersey, shops and practitioners must be licensed by the New Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling. All licenses must be displayed in a conspicuous place. Practitioners’ licenses must be valid, signed and have the individual’s photograph attached. If you do not see the shop license or the license for the person who is going to perform your services, you may ask to see it. If they do not have it, or if you have any doubts, leave the shop! You can call the Board to verify if the shop is licensed, whether there are any prior violations or if you want to file a complaint. You may also call the Consumer Action Hot Line at 1-800-242-5846, or download a complaint form by going to www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov.

6. Student Permits

Students attending cosmetology and hairstyling, skin care or manicuring training are allowed to work in a shop when they are not scheduled to attend classes, but only if they hold a student permit issued by the New Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling. The student must be at least 17 years of age, currently attending a cosmetology and hairstyling school and his/her student permit must be valid.

WHICH SERVICES ARE NOT PERMITTED IN A SHOP?

- Body piercing;
- Body waxing in areas other than the face, neck, arms, legs or abdomen (see N.J.S.A. 45:5B-3j(6)); and
- Tattooing.
- Be aware that a dress code is not required, but if you do not like the appearance of the shop . . . leave!

Again, do not be impressed by the shop’s ambiance (elegance, modernity, gadgets, etc.). You should focus instead on the cleanliness of the shop and the skill of the staff. If a shopowner does not care about the health and safety of the shop’s employees, he or she most likely will not care about the health and safety of the shop’s customers.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

The most frequent violations assessed by the Board are for unlicensed shops or unlicensed practitioners, unsanitary conditions and poor ventilation. If you have any concerns about the operation of a shop, call the Board and ask for an inspection. Inspectors working for the Division of Consumer Affairs’ Enforcement Bureau conduct unannounced inspections routinely. If a shop is found to be in violation of the laws or regulations of the New Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, the Board may decide to either fine the shop or close it down until it is in compliance with the State’s regulations. You may also call The National Cosmetology Association at 312-527-6765 to find out more about proper procedures.

Additional information may be obtained by writing to Mr. Jay A. Malanga, Executive Director, New Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling, P.O. Box 45003, Newark, NJ 07101.

Be an Informed Consumer... *We can Help!*

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