



## **Board for Barbers and Cosmetology**

### **GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

**Effective:** September 1, 2024

## **Cosmetology licensees completing training prior to straight razor requirement**

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### **I. Background**

According to § 54.1-700, the definition of cosmetology includes the practice of shaving, allowing cosmetologists to perform straight razor shaving within their scope of practice as defined in the Code of Virginia. However, cosmetology schools are not required to teach straight razor shaving and straight razor shaving was not in the curriculum. During the regulatory process to reduce the cosmetology training hours to 1,000, the Board incorporated straight razor shaving into the curriculum to ensure that cosmetologists are competent in this area.

The requirement for straight razor shaving in the cosmetology curriculum will take effect on September 1, 2024. Cosmetologists licensed before September 1, 2024, must currently ensure that they have been appropriately trained and are competent to perform straight razor shaving. To address these issues, on July 8, 2024, the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology established a guidance document for cosmetology licensees who completed their training prior to the Board implementing the straight razor curriculum requirements. The primary objective of the curriculum change was to clarify the prerequisites for performing straight razor shaving and provide cosmetology schools with the option to employ a barber or master barber instructor for training on straight razor shaving within a cosmetology school setting.

## **II. Applicable Statute**

According to § 54.1-700, the practice of cosmetology includes straight razor shaving. The guidance document specifies the prerequisites that cosmetologists must meet before conducting straight razor shaving. Cosmetologists must ensure competence in this skill before offering the service.

## **III. Consideration of Board Policy**

During the Board meeting on July 8, 2024, the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology approved a guidance document for cosmetology licensees who completed training before the straight razor requirement. This initiative aims to protect the safety and welfare of the public. The guidance document clarifies the criteria for cosmetologists to perform straight razor shaving, particularly for those licensed before it became a curriculum requirement. Cosmetologists must ensure they are competent in straight razor shaving before offering this service to the public.

## **IV. Guidance Document**

### **Cosmetologist performing straight razor shaving without completing the minimum 1000-hour curricula requirements.**

Cosmetologists who obtained their license before September 1, 2024, are eligible to perform straight razor shaving based on the cosmetology scope of practice. "Cosmetology" includes, but is not limited to, the following practices: administering cosmetic treatments; manicuring or pedicuring the nails of any person; arranging, dressing, curling, waving, 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." According to 18VAC41-20-280.1, cosmetologists who performs straight razor shaving without the appropriate training may be subject to disciplinary action.

Licensed cosmetology schools may employ licensed and certified barber or master barber instructors to provide training on straight razor shaving on face and neck in a cosmetology school.