



BCE Bulletin: Hair Braiding

July 26, 2016

This BCE Bulletin is provided in response to inquiries regarding hair braiding. This document is intended to be a summary and is not intended to provide specific or general legal advice. Please click the orange hyperlinks to view complete documents, laws, and rules mentioned.

Minnesota Board of Cosmetologist Examiners
2829 University Avenue SE
Suite 710
Minneapolis, MN 55414

(651) 201-2742
Speech Relay (800) 627-3529

bce.board@state.mn.us
www.bceboard.state.mn.us

BACKGROUND

In 2005, three hair braiders filed a lawsuit against the State of Minnesota stating that the definition of “cosmetology” in Minnesota State law should not include hair braiding and hair braiding should not be regulated by the state. The three hair braiders and the state regulatory agencies involved at the time (the Commerce Department and the former Board of Barber and Cosmetologist Examiners) agreed to settle the lawsuit. The settlement was approved in an order issued by the Hennepin County District Court, Fourth Judicial District on June 20, 2005 ([Court File No 05-5467](#)).

One result of the court approved settlement was that hair braiders do not need a cosmetologist license. The court approved settlement also prohibits the Board from independently pursuing or initiating legislation regarding hair braiding. After the court’s order approving the settlement was issued, the Minnesota legislature, not the Board, established a hair braider registration requirement, in Minn. Stat. § 155A.28.

To view the full text of the court approved settlement and additional information, please click [here](#). For the full text of the rules which list hair braiding in “unregulated services, please follow these links: [Minn. Rule 2105.0010, subp. 13](#) and [Minn. Rule 2110.0010, subp. 20](#).

HAIR BRAIDING REGISTRATION

Minn. Stat. § 155A.28 states that hair braiders must take a course on health, safety, infection control, and state laws and register with the Board of Cosmetologist Examiners. A list of [hair braiding course providers](#) is available on the [Board website](#) along with the [Hair Braider Registration Application](#). For the complete text of Minn. Stat. § 155A.28, click [here](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is hair braiding?

Hair braiding is a natural form of hair manipulation that results in tension on hair strands by beading, braiding, cornrowing, extending, lacing, locking, sewing, twisting, weaving, or wrapping hair into different shapes, patterns, and textures predominantly by hand and by only using simple braiding devices on human hair, synthetic hair, or hair extensions. Hair braiders can use gels, moisturizers, oils, pomades, shampoos, clips, combs, curlers, curling irons, hairpins, rollers, scissors, needles, and thread. For the complete definition of hair braiding, see [Minn. Stat. § 155A.28](#).

What is not hair braiding?

Hair braiders, or any persons, who do not have a cosmetologist license cannot use any of the following on a client's hair: penetrating chemical hair treatments, chemical hair straighteners, hair color, bleach, hair joining substances, or permanent waving or shaping solutions. A hair braider can only provide services and use products listed in the previous section. For the complete statute, see [Minn. Stat. § 155A.28](#).

Can a cosmetologist provide hair braiding services?

Yes, cosmetologists may provide hair braiding and are not required to register as a hair braider. For the complete statute, click [Minn. Stat. § 155A.28](#).

What if I want to change hair braiding laws?

Any person interested in changing hair braiding laws can contact their legislator to discuss changes. The court order described above prohibits the Board from initiating legislation to change hair braiding laws.