



# Alabama Board of Cosmetology & Barbering

## Quarterly Newsletter

*Summer 2025 Issue*

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## Your Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter where we will share updates, tips, and insights useful for your success and navigating Alabama's cosmetology laws & regulations!

We hope you find this newsletter both informative and inspiring.

Visit our [website](#) for more information!

**WE ARE REVAMPING OUR SITE TO BE A GREATER  
RESOURCE FOR YOU!**

We hear you! Thanks to your feedback, questions, and concerns we are working to rebuild our website to serve as a place for you to turn to for the resources you need to succeed. You can expect to find required forms, how-to guides, industry updates, and more.



# Alabama Board of Cosmetology & Barbering

## WELCOME TO OUR *Newsletter*

### *Message from the Director:*

We are thrilled to share the first edition of the Alabama Board of Cosmetology & Barbering in many years! This publication is designed with you in mind - our licensed professionals who help keep "Alabama the Beautiful."

Our goal is to provide you with helpful updates on licensing, regulatory changes, upcoming events, and other news that impacts your work in the beauty industry. We hope this newsletter will be a valuable resource to help keep you informed and connected.

Thank you for your dedication and for maintaining the high standards of professionalism that our industry is known for. ***Please call us at 334.242.1918 or toll free at 1.800.815.7453 if we can be of service to you!***

Thank you!

Jeannie G. Price, CPA  
Executive Director



## ***The Importance of Disinfection in Cosmetology Shops: Protecting Public Health and Safety***

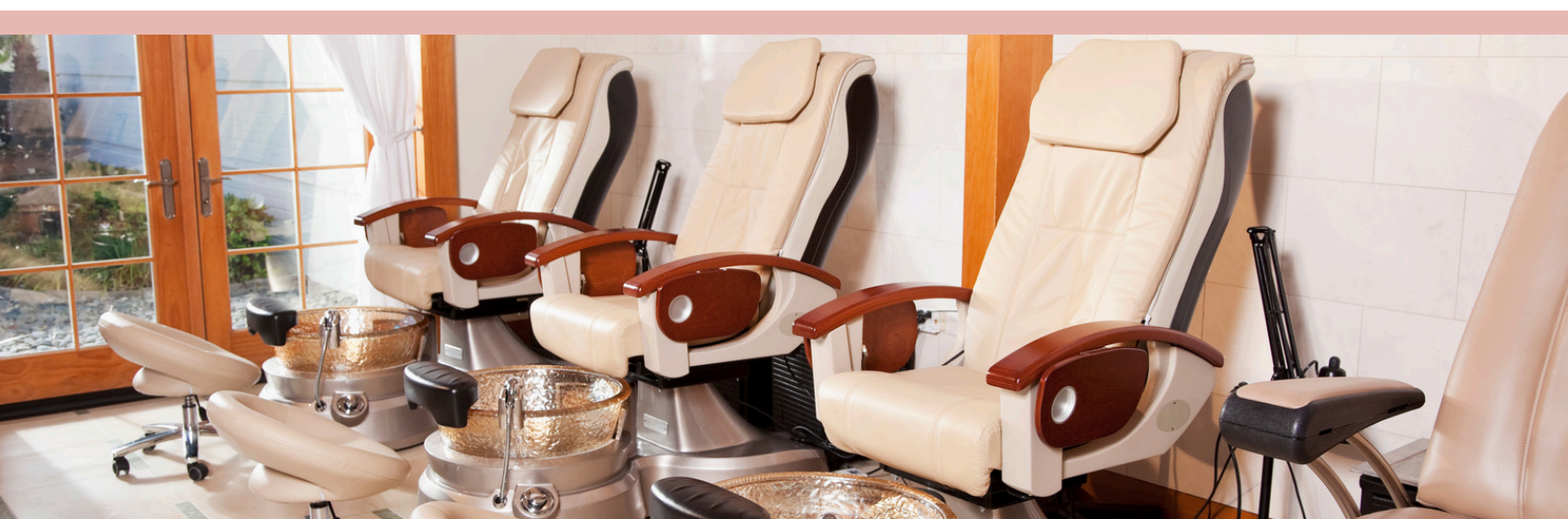
In the world of beauty and personal care, cleanliness is more than just an expectation—it's a necessity. Cosmetology shops provide a range of services, from haircuts and manicures to facials and waxing, all of which involve close contact with clients. Without proper disinfection, these services can become a breeding ground for infections and serious health risks. Maintaining a clean and hygienic environment is essential not only for the safety of clients but also for the reputation and success of the business.

### ***Beyond Spring Cleaning***

#### **WHY IT MATTERS**

Cosmetology services often involve direct contact with the skin, scalp, and nails, which can expose clients to bacteria, viruses, and fungi. Improper sanitation can lead to the spread of conditions such as:

- **Bacterial Infections** – Unclean tools can transfer harmful bacteria, leading to infections like folliculitis or even staph infections.
- **Fungal Infections** – Shared nail tools or foot baths that are not properly disinfected can cause conditions like athlete's foot or nail fungus.
- **Viral Infections** – Contaminated equipment can spread viruses such as herpes simplex (cold sores) or even more serious concerns like hepatitis B and C.



## *Cleaning Tips*

**SPRING CLEANING GOES BEYOND DAILY TIDYING— HERE'S WHERE TO FOCUS YOUR EFFORTS:**

**TO MAINTAIN A HIGH LEVEL OF CLEANLINESS, FOLLOW THESE KEY GUIDELINES:**

- **Workstation Cleaning -**

Wipe down all surfaces (chairs, countertops, mirrors) with an EPA approved disinfectant after each client. Remove any hair, dust, or debris before disinfecting.

- **Waiting Areas & Restrooms -** High-touch surfaces like doorknobs, seating areas, and restrooms should be disinfected frequently throughout the day.

- **Floors & Ventilation -** Sweep between clients to remove hair, dust, and debris. Mop daily to remove product residue and clean air filters regularly to maintain air quality.

- **Clean and Disinfect Between Clients -**

After each client, clean and disinfect all multi-use tools, including scissors, combs, brushes, and clippers using an EPA approved disinfectant.

- **Keep Towels & Capes Clean -** Always use fresh, laundered towels and capes for each client. Store clean linens in a closed, clean cabinet.

- **Use Disposable Supplies When Possible -** Items like nail files, buffers, wax applicators, and cotton swabs should be single-use and discarded after each client.

- **Ensure Proper Hand Hygiene -** Staff should wash their hands with soap and water before and after each client or use hand sanitizer if a sink is not available.

Follow [ABOC Laws & Administrative Rules](#) - Every cosmetology shop should adhere to the laws and administrative rules, which outline necessary sanitation procedures and licensing requirements. Regular inspections ensure compliance and help maintain public confidence.





## *Safety First: Preventing Hazards*

*A clean salon is a safe salon. In addition to disinfection, take the following steps to minimize risks:*

- **Check for Slip Hazards** - Immediately clean up spills and hair clippings to prevent falls. Use non-slip mats where necessary.
- **Store Chemicals Properly** - Keep all products in labeled containers and away from direct heat or sunlight. Ensure all staff members know how to handle chemicals safely.
- **Maintain Electrical Equipment** - Regularly inspect and clean dryers, straighteners, and other electrical tools to prevent malfunctions and potential fire hazards.
- **Safety Equipment Meets Health & Safety Standards** - Ensure fire extinguishers and first aid kits should be accessible and up-to-date.
- **Maintain Service Equipment** - Regularly inspect chairs, sinks, and other tools for malfunctions.
- **Be Prepared for Hazardous Chemical Exposure** - Have Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all products used in the shop.

Follow **ABOC Laws & Administrative Rules** - Every cosmetology shop should adhere to the laws and administrative rules, which outline necessary sanitation procedures and licensing requirements. Regular inspections ensure compliance and help maintain public confidence.



## ***Licensing Requirements for Salon Suites***

The Alabama Board of Cosmetology & Barbering (ABOC) recognizes the growing popularity of salon suite business models. While these spaces offer considerable advantages for you and your clients, they also necessitate clear understanding of licensing requirements to ensure compliance with Alabama's Statutory Laws and Administrative Regulations.

Our licensing department frequently receives questions regarding shop licenses for salon suites. To clarify:

### ***Do I Need a Shop License for My Salon Suite***

*In most scenarios, each individual salon suite offering ABOC-regulated cosmetology or barbering services requires a separate shop license.*

To determine your specific licensing needs, please consider the following questions:

- Do you independently schedule client appointments?
- Do your clients directly submit payment to you for services rendered?

If the answer is yes to both questions indicates the requirement for an individual shop license for your suite.

**Exception:** If you operate multiple suites within the same building under a single business name, only one shop license is required.

We understand that evolving business models may present licensing complexities. The ABOC is committed to providing resources and support to ensure licensees operate in full compliance. We encourage you to consult the official [Alabama Board of Cosmetology & Barbering website](#) for comprehensive information regarding licensing requirements.





## ***Administrative Rules Update: Enhancements to the Apprentice Program***

### **YOU ASKED - WE ANSWERED!**

We heard you! Many of our licensees talked with us about the challenges faced in the apprentice program – from coordinating time off to ensuring that the apprentice is properly trained in various specialties. In response to our licensees' requests, we have made several changes to the rules governing the apprentice program.

### **What's New?**

Effective immediately, an apprentice may now have more than one sponsor. This change is designed to ensure that an apprentice will always have on-site supervision, even when the primary sponsor is unavailable. Additionally, this adjustment will help ease some of the burdens on sponsors who need to take time off or manage scheduling conflicts.

### **How Does It Work?**

- **Multiple Sponsors:** An apprentice can be assigned to more than one sponsor. This flexibility will allow any of the designated sponsors to be present while the apprentice is working, ensuring supervision is always available.
- **One Apprentice per Sponsor:** While an apprentice may have multiple sponsors, a sponsor is still limited to overseeing only one apprentice at a time.
- **Primary Sponsor Responsibility:** The primary sponsor will remain responsible for submitting the required paperwork to the Board office, ensuring that the program remains compliant with all regulatory requirements.

We believe this update will create a smoother experience for both apprentices and sponsors, improving the training environment while maintaining the high standards of professionalism and supervision.

Thank you to everyone who voiced their concerns and suggestions. Your input helps us continue improving our programs to better serve the needs of our licensees and industry professionals. To [view the updated administrative rules, click here.](#)



## ***Behind the Scenes: Meet the Guardian of Salon Standards, Bruce Thornell***

The world of cosmetology is one of artistry, innovation, and meticulous attention to detail. But behind the glamorous transformations and trendy styles lies a crucial regulatory framework that ensures public safety and professional integrity. At the heart of this framework stands the Board of Cosmetology, and within it, the Chief Investigator and Field Operations Supervisor, Bruce Thornell.

For many salon owners and cosmetologists, the word "inspection" might conjure a sense of apprehension. However, Bruce and his team are dedicated to fostering a collaborative environment, emphasizing education and compliance rather than punitive measures. Their mission is clear: to uphold the highest standards of sanitation, safety, and professional practice across the state.

"Our goal is to be a resource for the industry," Bruce explains. "We understand that regulations can be complex, and we're here to provide clarity and support. We want to empower salon owners and cosmetologists to create safe and thriving environments for their clients."

The Chief Investigator's responsibilities are multifaceted. He oversees a team of field inspectors, ensuring consistent application of regulations across the state. This includes:

- Conducting regular inspections: Evaluating salons and schools for compliance with sanitation, safety, and licensing requirements.
- Investigating complaints: Addressing concerns raised by clients or industry professionals regarding potential violations.
- Providing education and training: Offering resources and workshops to help licensees stay informed about current regulations and best practices.
- Collaborating with industry stakeholders: Working with salon owners, educators, and professional organizations to promote a culture of compliance and excellence.

Bruce emphasizes the importance of proactive compliance. "Staying up-to-date on regulations is essential for any professional in the cosmetology industry," they advise. "We encourage licensees to utilize the resources available on the Board's website and to reach out to our team with any questions."

Beyond the technical aspects of the role, Bruce is passionate about fostering a positive and supportive relationship with the industry. He recognizes the dedication and artistry that cosmetologists bring to their work, and he is committed to ensuring that the regulatory framework serves to protect and enhance the profession.

In an industry that thrives on creativity and personal connection, the role of the Chief of Inspections is vital in maintaining the foundation of safety and professionalism. Bruce and his team is dedicated to ensuring that every salon and school provides a safe and healthy environment for both practitioners and clients, allowing the art of cosmetology to flourish.



## 25-27 SHOP RENEWALS

Shop license renewals for term 2025-2027 will be available for online payments beginning July 1, 2025.

A printable renewal form that can be submitted by mail will also be available in July 2025.

[RENEW ONLINE](#)



## PERSONAL RENEWALS

Personal license renewals (excluding Barbers) for term 2025-2027 are due! during your birth month.

A printable renewal form that can be submitted by mail is also available.

[RENEW ONLINE](#)



## *Spotlight on Just Teasing*

### A BEACON OF CLEANLINESS

The Alabama Board of Cosmetology & Barbering is proud to highlight Just Teasing of Hamilton, AL for its outstanding commitment to sanitation and cleanliness. By exceeding state regulations and prioritizing hygiene, Just Teasing sets a standard of excellence in the industry.

### *What Sets Them Apart:*

- **Rigorous Disinfection:** Tools and workstations are sanitized meticulously, ensuring a safe environment for clients.
- **Impeccable Tool Management:** Proper storage and disposal methods prevent cross-contamination.
- **Spotless Workspaces:** Every surface, from styling stations to waiting areas, is consistently clean and well-maintained.
- **Client Education:** Just Teasing promotes hygiene awareness, fostering a culture of safety.

Christal, owner of Just Teasing says, "disinfection is just as important as the services we provide". Their dedication to a clean, welcoming environment serves as a model for other professionals.

Let's all prioritize cleanliness to elevate our industry's professionalism and build trust with our communities.



## CONTACT US

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### **Exams and Original Licenses After Exam**

Trishunda Henderson  
334-353-7256  
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### **Transfer of Personal Licenses to or from Alabama (including Certifications)**

Hannah Casey  
334-353-1822

*For certifications from other states coming to  
Alabama: [certifications@aboc.alabama.gov](mailto:certifications@aboc.alabama.gov)*

*For reciprocity requests from out-of-state  
licensees: [reciprocity@aboc.alabama.gov](mailto:reciprocity@aboc.alabama.gov)*

### **Apprentices, Shampoo Assistant, and Threader Licenses**

Cheryl Grant  
334-242-1912  
[apprentices@aboc.alabama.gov](mailto:apprentices@aboc.alabama.gov)

*To submit apprentice hours:  
[apprentices@aboc.alabama.gov](mailto:apprentices@aboc.alabama.gov)*

### **Further Assistance & General Questions:**

334-242-1918  
[cosmetology@aboc.alabama.gov](mailto:cosmetology@aboc.alabama.gov)

## HELPFUL LINKS

[Online Payments](#)

[Transfer a Personal License](#)

[Forms](#)

[Exam Requiements](#)

[Apprenticeship](#)

[License Types](#)

[Test Taker Handbook](#)

[Prepare for Shop Inspection](#)

[ABOCB Regulations](#)