

CHAPTER 158

BARBERING

Referred to in §147.76, 157.7, 157.9, 157.10

Enforcement, §147.87, 147.92

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158.1 Definitions.

For the purpose of [this chapter](#):

1. “*Barbering*” means the practices listed in [this subsection](#) performed with or without compensation. “*Barbering*” includes but is not limited to the following practices performed upon the upper part of the human body of any person for cosmetic purposes and not for the treatment of disease or physical or mental ailments:

- Shaving or trimming the beard or cutting the hair.
- Giving facial and scalp massages or treatments with oils, creams, lotions, or other preparations either by hand, or by electrical or mechanical appliances.
- Singeing, shampooing, hair body processing, arranging, dressing, curling, blow waving, hair relaxing, bleaching or coloring the hair, or applying hair tonics.
- Applying cosmetic preparations, antiseptics, powders, oils, clays, waxes, or lotions to scalp, face, or neck.
- Styling, cutting or shampooing hairpieces or wigs when done in conjunction with haircutting or hairstyling.

2. “*Barber*” means a person who performs practices of barbering or otherwise by the person’s occupation claims to have knowledge or skill peculiar to the practice of barbering.

3. “*Barbershop*” means an establishment in a fixed location or a location that is readily movable where one or more persons engage in the practice of barbering.

4. “*Barber school*” means an establishment operated by a person for the purpose of teaching barbering.

5. “*Board*” means the board of barbering.

6. “*Department*” means the Iowa department of public health.

[C27, 31, 35, §2585-b11; C39, §2585.25; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §158.1, 158.11(1,2); C77, 79, 81, §158.1]

[2007 Acts, ch 10, §159](#); [2009 Acts, ch 56, §6](#); [2009 Acts, ch 133, §65](#); [2020 Acts, ch 1003, §1, 2](#)

Referred to in §157.2, 157.13, 158.2, 158.8

Subsection 3 amended

158.2 Prohibition — exceptions.

A person shall not practice barbering with or without compensation unless the person possesses a license issued under the provisions of [section 158.3](#). A person licensed under [section 158.3](#) shall not represent to the public that the person is primarily engaged in practices other than haircutting unless the functions are in fact the person’s primary function or specialty. Practices listed in [section 158.1](#) when performed by the following persons do not constitute barbering:

1. Licensed physicians and surgeons, osteopathic physicians and surgeons, nurses, dentists, podiatric physicians, optometrists, chiropractors, and physical therapists, when exclusively engaged in the practice of their respective professions.

2. Licensed practitioners of cosmetology arts and sciences as defined in [section 157.1](#).

3. Students enrolled in licensed barber schools or schools of cosmetology arts and sciences who are practicing under the instruction or immediate supervision of an instructor.

4. Persons who, without compensation, perform any of the practices on an emergency basis or on a casual basis.

5. Employees and residents of hospitals, health care facilities, orphans' homes, juvenile homes, and other similar facilities who shampoo, arrange, dress, or curl the hair of any resident, or who shave or trim the beard of any resident, without receiving direct compensation from the person receiving the service.

6. Persons who perform any of the practices listed in [section 158.1](#) on themselves or on a member of the person's immediate family.

7. Offenders committed to the custody of the director of the department of corrections who cut the hair or trim or shave the beard of any other offender within a correctional facility, without receiving direct compensation from the person receiving the service.

8. Persons committed pursuant to [chapter 229A](#) to the custody of the director of the department of human services in the unit for sexually violent predators who cut the hair or trim or shave the beard of any other person within the unit, without receiving direct compensation from the person receiving the service.

[C27, 31, 35, §2585-b12; C39, §2585.26; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 77, 79, 81, §158.2]

[92 Acts, ch 1205, §18; 96 Acts, ch 1034, §68; 2005 Acts, ch 174, §20; 2008 Acts, ch 1088, §141; 2009 Acts, ch 133, §66; 2011 Acts, ch 98, §4](#)

158.3 License requirements.

1. An applicant shall be issued a license to practice barbering by the department when the applicant satisfies all of the following:

a. Presents to the department a diploma, or other like evidence, issued by a licensed barber school indicating that the applicant has completed the course of study prescribed by the board.

b. Completes the application form prescribed by the board.

c. Passes an examination prescribed by the board. The examination shall include both practical demonstrations and written or oral tests and shall not be confined to any specific system or method.

d. Presents a certificate, or satisfactory evidence, to the department that the applicant has successfully completed tenth grade, or the equivalent. The provisions of [this subsection](#) shall not apply to students enrolled in a barber school maintained at an institution under the control of a director of a division of the department of human services.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of [subsection 1](#), any person who completes the application form prescribed by the board and who submits satisfactory proof of having been a licensed barber in another state for at least twelve months in the twenty-four month period preceding the submission of the application shall be allowed to take the examination for a license to practice barbering. However, the examination requirement shall be waived for those persons who submit evidence of licensure in another state which has a reciprocal agreement with the state of Iowa under the provisions of [sections 147.44, 147.48, and 147.49](#).

3. Notwithstanding the provisions of [subsection 1](#), any person who completes the application form prescribed by the board and who completes a barbering apprenticeship training program registered by the office of apprenticeship of the United States department of labor while committed to the custody of the director of the Iowa department of corrections shall be allowed to take the examination for a license to practice barbering.

[C27, 31, 35, §2585-b13, -b14; C39, §2585.27, 2585.28; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §158.3, 158.4; C77, 79, 81, §158.3]

[83 Acts, ch 96, §157, 159; 92 Acts, ch 1097, §6; 2009 Acts, ch 56, §7; 2019 Acts, ch 99, §12](#)

Referred to in [§157.12, 158.2, 158.4](#)

158.4 Temporary permits.

1. A person who completes the requirements for licensure listed in [section 158.3](#), except for the examination, shall be known as a trainee and shall be issued a temporary permit by the department which allows the applicant to practice barbering from the date of application until passage of the examination subject to [this subsection](#). An applicant shall take the first available examination administered by the board, and may retain the temporary permit

if the applicant does not pass the examination. An applicant who does not pass the first examination shall take the next available examination administered by the board. The temporary permit of an applicant who does not pass the second examination shall be revoked. An applicant who passes either examination shall be issued a license pursuant to [section 158.3](#). The board shall adopt rules providing for a waiver of the requirement to take the first available examination for good cause.

2. The department may issue a temporary permit which allows the applicant to practice barbering for purposes determined by rule. The board shall determine and state its recommendations and the length of time the temporary permit issued under [this subsection](#) is valid.

3. The fee for a temporary permit shall be established by the board as provided in [section 147.80](#).

[C77, 79, 81, §158.4]

[92 Acts, ch 1205, §19; 2010 Acts, ch 1163, §7](#)

158.5 Sanitary rules.

The department shall prescribe sanitary rules for barbershops and barber schools which shall include the sanitary conditions necessary for the practice of barbering and for the prevention of infectious and contagious diseases. Subject to local zoning ordinances, a barbershop may be established in a residence if a room other than the living quarters is equipped for that purpose. The department shall enforce the provisions of [this section](#) and make necessary inspections for enforcement.

[C27, 31, 35, §2585-b15; C39, §2585.31; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §158.7; C77, 79, 81, §158.5]

Referred to in [§158.13](#)

158.6 Inspectors and clerical assistants.

1. The department of inspections and appeals shall employ personnel pursuant to [chapter 8A, subchapter IV](#), to perform duties related to inspection functions under [this chapter](#). The department of inspections and appeals shall, when possible, integrate inspection efforts under [this chapter](#) with inspections conducted under [chapter 157](#).

2. The Iowa department of public health may employ clerical assistants pursuant to [chapter 8A, subchapter IV](#), to administer and enforce [this chapter](#). The costs and expenses of the clerical assistants shall be paid from funds appropriated to the department of public health.

[C27, 31, 35, §2585-b18; C39, §2585.33; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §158.9; C77, 79, 81, §158.6]

[90 Acts, ch 1204, §24; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §202; 2020 Acts, ch 1062, §94](#)

Referred to in [§10A.104](#)

Code editor directive applied

158.7 Licensing barber schools.

1. It is unlawful for a barber school to operate unless the owner has obtained a license issued by the department. The owner shall file a verified application with the department on forms prescribed by the board.

2. Any person employed as a barbering instructor in a licensed barber school shall be a licensed barber and shall possess a separate instructor's license which shall be renewed biennially. An instructor shall file an application with the department on forms prescribed by the board.

3. The barber school must pass a sanitary inspection, and the course of study of the school must be approved by the board under the provisions of [section 158.8](#).

4. An annual inspection of each barber school, including the educational activities of each school, shall be conducted and completed by the board prior to renewal of the license.

5. *a.* The application shall be accompanied by the annual license fee determined under the provisions of [section 147.80](#) and shall state the name and location of the school, name of the owner, name of the manager, and such other additional information as the board may require. The license is valid for one year and may be renewed.

b. The license shall contain a statement which provides that the licensee is approved by the department as a provider of postsecondary education.

6. A license for a barber school shall not be issued for any space in any location where the same space is licensed as a school of cosmetology.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §158.11; C77, 79, 81, §158.7]

[2009 Acts, ch 56, §8](#); [2012 Acts, ch 1062, §2](#)

Referred to in [§261.9](#), [261B.11](#), [714.18](#), [714.25](#)

158.8 Course of study.

1. The course of study of a barber school shall consist of at least two thousand one hundred hours of instruction as prescribed by the board and shall include instruction in all phases of the practice of barbering as defined in [section 158.1, subsection 1](#). The course shall require at least ten months of instruction for completion. The course shall include not less than three hundred hours of demonstrations and lectures in the following areas: law; ethics; equipment; shop management; history of barbering; sanitation; sterilization; personal hygiene; first aid; bacteriology; anatomy; scalp, skin, hair and their common disorders; electricity as applied to barbering; chemistry and pharmacology; scalp care; hair body processing; hairpieces; honing and stropping; shaving; facials, massage and packs; haircutting; hair tonics; dyeing and bleaching; instruments; soaps; and shampoos, creams, lotions, waxes, and tonics. It shall include not less than one thousand four hundred hours of supervised practical instruction in the following areas: scalp care and shampooing, honing and stropping, shaving, haircutting, hairstyling and blow waving, dyeing and bleaching, hair body processing, facials, waxing, massage and packs, beard and mustache trimming, and hairpieces.

2. A person licensed under [section 157.3](#) who enrolls in a barber school shall be granted full credit for each course successfully completed which meets the requirements of the barber school, which shall be credited toward the two thousand one hundred hour requirement, and the ten-month period does not apply. A person who has been a student in a school of cosmetology arts and sciences licensed under [chapter 157](#) may enroll in a barber school and shall be granted, at the discretion of the school, at least half credit and up to full credit for each course successfully completed which meets the requirements of the barber school.

[C77, 79, 81, §158.8]

[88 Acts, ch 1110, §4](#); [92 Acts, ch 1205, §20](#); [2009 Acts, ch 56, §9](#)

Referred to in [§158.7](#)

158.9 Barbershop licenses.

1. A barbershop shall not operate unless the owner has obtained a license issued by the department. The owner shall apply to the department on forms prescribed by the board. The department may perform a sanitary inspection of each barbershop biennially and may perform a sanitary inspection of a barbershop prior to the issuance of a license. An inspection of a barbershop may also be conducted upon receipt of a complaint by the department.

2. The application shall be accompanied by the biennial license fee determined pursuant to [section 147.80](#). The license is valid for two years and may be renewed.

3. A licensed barber school at which students practice barbering is exempt from licensing as a barbershop.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §158.11; C77, 79, 81, §158.9]

[83 Acts, ch 206, §11](#); [91 Acts, ch 268, §432](#); [99 Acts, ch 141, §29](#); [2001 Acts, ch 58, §14](#); [2014 Acts, ch 1106, §19](#)

158.10 Supervisors of barbers.

A person who directly supervises the work of barbers shall be either a barber licensed under [this chapter](#) or a cosmetologist licensed under [section 157.3](#).

[C77, 79, 81, §158.10]

[88 Acts, ch 1110, §5](#)

158.11 Continuing education.

1. A person licensed pursuant to [this chapter](#) shall be required to complete no more than

three hours of continuing education every two years that meets the requirements established by the board. The continuing education compliance period shall extend for a two-year period beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30 of each even-numbered year.

2. A member of the board shall not provide the continuing education required by [this section](#).

[2015 Acts, ch 63, §1](#)

158.12 License suspension and revocation.

Any license issued by the department under the provisions of [this chapter](#) may be suspended, revoked, or renewal denied by the board for violation of any provision of [chapter 157](#) or [this chapter](#) or rules promulgated by the board under the provisions of [chapter 17A](#).

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §158.11; C77, 79, 81, §158.12]

158.13 Violations.

1. It is unlawful for a person to employ an individual to practice barbering unless that individual is a licensed barber or has obtained a temporary permit. It is unlawful for a licensed barber to practice barbering with or without compensation in any place other than a licensed barbershop or barber school, or a licensed salon as defined in [section 157.1](#), except that a licensed barber may practice barbering at a location which is not a licensed barbershop or barber school under extenuating circumstances arising from physical or mental disability or death of a customer. It is unlawful for a licensed barber to claim to be a licensed cosmetologist, but it is lawful for a licensed barber to work in a licensed salon.

2. If the owner or manager of a barbershop does not comply with the sanitary rules adopted under the provisions of [section 158.5](#) or fails to maintain the barbershop as prescribed by rules of the department, the department may notify the owner or manager in writing of the failure to comply. If the rules are not complied with within five days after receipt of the written notice by the owner or manager, the department shall in writing order the shop closed until the rules are complied with. It is unlawful for a person to practice barbering in a shop which has been closed under the provisions of [this section](#). The county attorney in each county shall assist the department in enforcing the provisions of [this section](#).

[C27, 31, 35, §2585-b12, -c14; C39, §2585.26, 2585.30; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §158.1, 158.6; C77, 79, 81, §158.13]

[88 Acts, ch 1110, §6](#); [92 Acts, ch 1205, §22](#)

158.14 Manicurists.

1. A licensed barbershop may employ a licensed manicurist to manicure the fingernails of any person.

2. An unlicensed person who was employed by a licensed barbershop to manicure fingernails prior to July 1, 1989, may continue such employment without meeting licensing requirements under [chapter 157](#).

[C77, 79, 81, §158.14]

[89 Acts, ch 240, §5](#)

Referred to in [§157.2](#)

158.15 Rules.

The board shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to administer the provisions of [this chapter](#).

[C77, 79, 81, §158.15]

[89 Acts, ch 3, §2](#)

158.16 Penalty.

A person convicted of violating any of the provisions of [this chapter](#) shall be fined an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars.

[C35, §2522; C39, §2585.24; C46, §157.15; C50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §158.12; C77, 79, 81, §158.16]

[2009 Acts, ch 56, §10](#); [2010 Acts, ch 1061, §32](#)