

## WHO WE ARE



*Roxana Gumucio, Executive Director  
Tennessee State Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners*

The Tennessee State Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners regulates the practice of cosmetology and barbering, including the licensure and registration of cosmetologists, instructors, aestheticians, manicurists, cosmetology shops, master barbers, barber instructors, barber shops, and barber and cosmetology schools.

The mission of the TDCI Division of Regulatory Boards is to protect the public welfare by ensuring that only qualified persons are certified, permitted, or licensed and that once licensed, these persons and businesses uphold the highest appropriate professional standards of practice, independence, and competency.

We look forward to serving you! Have questions? We're here to help. Our live chat feature is available weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (CT) and can be accessed from the bottom of [tn.gov/commerce](http://tn.gov/commerce).



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# A CUT ABOVE?

*Consumer Tips for  
Selecting a Cosmetologist  
or Barber*



The Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance (TDCI) is dedicated to helping Tennessee consumers make smart decisions. The Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners, a section of TDCI's Regulatory Boards, regulates the practice of cosmetology and barbering, including the licensure and registration of cosmetologists, instructors, aestheticians, manicurists, cosmetology shops, master barbers, barber instructors, barber shops, and barber and cosmetology schools.

The primary objective of the Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners is the safety and welfare of the public. We regulate Tennessee's 23 barber schools, 2,050 barber shops, and 5,000 master barbers. Additionally, we regulate Tennessee's 75 private cosmetology schools, 65 public schools, 35 vocational schools, three correctional schools, 8,550 cosmetology shops, and 51,000 cosmetologists, manicurists, aestheticians and natural hair stylists.

The Board strives to provide excellent protection for consumers and enhanced quality improvement for licensees in an industry with often-changing techniques and trends. We've highlighted several resources that will help both consumers and licensees.

The cosmetology and barbering professions are facing new challenges on a daily basis, and the emphasis is shifting from the traditional role of regulation to one of awareness and assistance. Because of concerns about communicable diseases, the Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners place strict guidelines on utilization and maintaining clean and sanitary equipment at all times, including gloves and goggles for all licensees when performing any type of service on a client. For up to date information refer to the Americans with Disabilities Act and visit the website at <https://www.ada.gov>.

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Visit our One-Stop Licensing App on the front page of [tn.gov/commerce](http://tn.gov/commerce) to find out about the requirements, fees, and duties of becoming licensed.

Check to see if both the business and the person providing you with barbering and/or cosmetology services are licensed at [verify.tn.gov](http://verify.tn.gov).

To get important alerts about changes to rules and laws that impact the industry, sign up to receive email notifications from the Board at [apps.tn.gov/notify-app/sign\\_up.html](http://apps.tn.gov/notify-app/sign_up.html).

## CONSUMER CHECKLIST

Consider the following before choosing a shop or salon:

- Does the shop have a current license posted for the public to view?
- Does the shop have a current inspections sheet posted for the public to view? The inspection score should be 90 or higher.
- Does the cosmetology shop have an individual license and name tag for each person providing service? Each license must be current and must be from Tennessee.
- Does the shop look clean? Shops are inspected annually to assure sanitation is a priority.
- Are there animals in the shop? Shops may have fish and/or birds for decorative purposes or service animals. Otherwise, no animals are allowed.
- Is the manager present? The manager must be present at all times. He or she is a licensee and is there to assist you.

## STUDENT CHECKLIST

The Board also regulates cosmetology and barber schools in Tennessee. If you're thinking of enrolling in a school to pursue a career as a professional cosmetologist or barber, you should first educate yourself about the institution and look for the one that works for you.

- Does the cosmetology or barber school you're considering accept financial aid and is that important to you? When completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms, ask for assistance if anything is confusing. It is important to understand student loans and their financial implications.
- Have you read the student contract carefully before signing? The contract is a legally binding agreement, so ask for help if you don't understand it. Remember to keep a copy for yourself.
- Are you keeping a record of the classes you've taken and the credits you've earned? It's good to have this information on hand just in case.

## REPORT VIOLATIONS

If you feel you have been the victim of an unfair or deceptive business practice, witness unlicensed activity or see suspected misconduct or other violations, we want to make it as easy as possible to file a complaint. Visit <http://www.tn.gov/commerce/article/cosmo-file-a-complaint> to access our easy to use complaint form or call 615-741-3449.

The cosmetology and barber industry is large and serves thousands of Tennesseans every day. This daily interaction provides licensees and consumers with an opportunity to recognize and report signs of human trafficking. If you see suspicious activity that could indicate human trafficking, please contact your local law enforcement agency immediately.