



## CONNECTICUT'S BARBER AND HAIRDRESSER LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS

By: Nicole Dube, Principal Analyst

### QUESTIONS

What are Connecticut's licensure requirements for barbers and hairdressers, including applicants currently licensed in other states? Does the state offer apprenticeship programs for these professions?

### SUMMARY

Connecticut has regulated barbers and hairdressers since 1949. Currently, the Department of Public Health (DPH) issues one license to barbers and another to hairdressers and cosmeticians. Separate laws govern each license category ([CGS Chapter 386](#) for barbers; [CGS Chapter 387](#) for hairdressers and cosmeticians). But, the law allows licensed hairdressers to work in barbershops and, conversely, licensed barbers to work in hairdressing shops ([CGS § 20-248](#)).

The law establishes similar application requirements for both licenses. Applicants for both must pay a \$100 fee and pass a DPH-prescribed exam. Additionally:

1. barbers must complete (a) the eighth grade or pass an equivalency exam and (b) at least 1,000 hours of approved coursework and
2. hairdressers must complete (a) the ninth grade or pass an equivalency exam and (b) at least 1,500 hours of approved coursework ([PA 14-231](#)).

The law generally allows a person licensed as a barber or hairdresser in another state or U.S. territory or possession to become licensed in Connecticut by endorsement (i.e., without examination) if the other jurisdiction required an exam, education, and training for a license. The fee for licensure by endorsement in Connecticut is \$100 for barber applicants and \$50 for hairdresser applicants. Hairdresser applicants trained in other countries must show that they have similar training to Connecticut's requirements and pass an exam.

Currently, the state does not offer apprenticeship programs for barbers or hairdressers. In 2013, the legislature passed a bill ([Special Act 13-12](#)) requiring the Connecticut State Apprenticeship Council, in consultation with the DPH commissioner, to study the feasibility of establishing a barbershop apprenticeship program within the Labor Department. We contacted the council regarding the status of this report, but did not receive a response.

## **BARBER AND HAIRDRESSER LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS**

Below, we summarize the licensure requirements for barbers and hairdressers. More information is available on DPH's [website](#).

In order to obtain a DPH license, an applicant must:

1. have graduated (a) eighth grade for barbers, (b) ninth grade for hairdressers, or their equivalent (DPH's website explains how a person can show equivalency, including passing the General Educational Development (GED) test or other specified examinations);
2. for barbers, have successfully completed at least 1,000 hours of study in a barber school approved by the Connecticut State Board for Barbers, Hairdressers, and Cosmeticians, or if trained outside the state, in a school with equivalent requirements to those of a Connecticut school;
3. for hairdressers, have successfully completed at least 1,500 hours of study in a hairdressing and cosmetology school meeting specified requirements, under the supervision of the State Board of Education, or if trained outside of the state, in a school with equivalent requirements to those of a Connecticut school;
4. pass a written DPH-prescribed examination; and
5. pay a \$100 fee.

The application forms are available [online](#). Licenses must be renewed every two years for the same fee ([CGS § 20-253](#)).

### ***Licensure By Endorsement***

A person licensed (1) as a barber or hairdresser or (2) to perform similar services in another state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. commonwealth or territory can be licensed without examination, if the other jurisdiction required education, training, and an exam for licensure. The fee is \$100 for barber applicants and \$50 for hairdresser applicants. The fee is waived for an applicant who has held a barber license from another jurisdiction for at least 40 years.

Licensure by endorsement is not available to an applicant who is the subject of pending professional disciplinary action or an unresolved complaint ([CGS § 20-254](#)).

### ***Foreign-Trained Hairdresser Applicants and Guest Permits***

According to DPH's [website](#), foreign-trained hairdresser applicants may qualify for licensure if they meet the requirements for licensure by examination or by endorsement. According to a representative of DPH's licensing division, an applicant licensed in another country would have to provide information verifying his or her training or education; if it was determined to be inadequate compared to Connecticut's requirements, the applicant would need to take additional training or education. The applicant must also complete a Connecticut exam.

The law also allows someone licensed as a hairdresser or cosmetologist by another state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. territory, or another country to obtain a temporary guest permit to work at a hairdressing or cosmetology educational show or demonstration limited to Connecticut licensees. The permit is valid for the duration of the show or demonstration and cannot exceed one week. The permit fee is \$25 ([CGS § 20-255a](#)). (There are no similar provisions for barber applicants.)

### ***Disciplinary Action and Penalties***

Anyone who practices without a license, or violates other provisions of the barber or hairdresser and cosmetician laws for which no other penalty is provided, is subject to a \$100 fine for a first offense. A subsequent offense is a class D misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in prison, a fine of up to \$250, or both ([CGS § 20-265](#)).

DPH can revoke the license of a person convicted of violating any provision of the barber or hairdresser and cosmetician laws. The department can also take its full range of disciplinary action against a licensee for (1) drug or alcohol abuse and (2) physical, emotional, or mental illness or loss of motor skill. For licensed hairdressers, DPH can also take such action for (1) fraud or deception in obtaining a license; (2) fraud or material deception in professional services or activities; and (3) illegal, incompetent, or negligent conduct in professional activities. DPH must give notice and an opportunity for a hearing before revoking or suspending a license ([CGS §§ 20-238 & 20-263](#)).

## **LINKS**

DPH, Barber Licensure (last visited July 17, 2014):

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3121&q=521220>

DPH, Hairdresser Licensure (last visited July 17, 2014):

[http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3121&q=389338&dphNav\\_GID=1821](http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3121&q=389338&dphNav_GID=1821)

ND:ts