



BEYOND THE CHAIR

IDFPR

Division Newsletter

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation



WINTER 2026

LICENSING UPDATE: COMPREHENSIVE ONLINE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT (CORE)

Page 3

ALSO INSIDE:

CHANGES IN THE BCENT ACT AND RULES

Page 5

NEW SELF-INSPECTION FORM NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALONS & SHOPS

Page 7

CONTENTS

COMPREHENSIVE ONLINE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT (CORE)	3
AMERICA'S BEAUTY SHOW 2025	4
CHANGES IN THE BCENT ACT AND RULES THAT WILL AFFECT THE REGULATED PROFESSIONS	5
NEW SELF-INSPECTION FORM NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALONS & SHOPS	7
RECENT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS	7
UPCOMING MEETINGS	8
FILE A COMPLAINT	8

CORE

Comprehensive Online Regulatory Environment

On October 30, 2024, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) announced the launch of the Comprehensive Online Regulatory Environment (CORE), its new online licensing system, for the first set of IDFPR-licensed professionals. The new online process eliminates the need for paper applications, gives applicants more control over their application materials, and helps prevent deficient applications from being submitted. In addition to creating a streamlined online application process, CORE features a simplified review process for all license applications received by IDFPR.

“Everyone wanting to earn a living in Illinois in the 21st century should have tools of the times available so they can be licensed and get to work as soon as possible,” said **IDFPR Secretary Mario Treto, Jr.** “Combined with our steps to streamline our current processes, CORE demonstrates our commitment to fulfilling that mission for the betterment of Illinois, and I look forward to our team fully transitioning our services to this new system over the next two years.”

The original launch of CORE marked the first completed step of a planned, multiphase approach by IDFPR which began in 2024 and is expected to conclude by the end of 2026 to ensure applications for more than 300 license types and records for more than 1.2 million professionals are properly transitioned.

Phase 1 of the new system included Nail Technicians. Hair Braiders, Hair Braiding Teachers, new Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding and Nail Technology (BCENT) schools, BCENT CE Sponsor and Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Education applications have also since been added to CORE. Phase 2 is now complete, and the Department has successfully transitioned 99 additional license applications withing the Department from paper-based processes into CORE. Phase 3, which includes the remaining transition for the Division of Professional Regulation, and Phase 4 which includes the regulatory transition for the Division of Real Estate are currently underway. For more information about CORE, please visit: <https://idfpr.illinois.gov/core.html>.

Phase 1	Three pilot professions added to test system functionality. New applications only for clinical psychologists, nail technicians, and music therapists. This phase was completed on October 30, 2024.
Phase 2	Add all remaining Division of Professional Regulation (DPR) professions with manual or paper processes, with a priority on healthcare professions. This phase will be for new applications only.
Phase 3	Full regulatory transition for DPR.
Phase 4	Full regulatory transition for the Division of Real Estate.
Phase 5	Full regulatory transition for the Division of Banking.
Phase 6	Full regulatory transition for the Division of Financial Institutions.

AMERICA'S BEAUTY SHOW 2025



IDFPR was present for the 102nd America's Beauty Show at the Stephenson Convention Center in Rosemont April 5-7, 2025. The agency's Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding, and Nail Technology Board members - Chandra Niemerg, Van Johnson and Raquel Sanchez - assisted with answering questions and providing guidance to attendees. It was successful and productive weekend.



CHANGES IN THE BCENT ACT AND RULES THAT WILL AFFECT THE REGULATED PROFESSIONS



Almost every year there are changes to the BCENT Act and/or the associated Rules that affect how the BCENT professions are regulated. Rules were recently adopted on October 6, 2025 and changes to the Act will be effective on January 1, 2026. As a result, licensees need to be aware of these changes and determine how they may impact you. For example, Rule changes include the definition of the required hours per subject areas within the barber curriculum ([Section 1175.330](#)). Schools offering a barber program are directly affected by this change.

Given the extensive nature of recent changes, it is not feasible to include a comprehensive list of updates here, however, the summary below highlights some of the more impactful changes.

You can find the specific changes to the Act for 2025 in [Public Act 104-0134](#). The specific changes to the Act for 2026 can be found in [Public Act 104-0153](#). For additional information, please visit your profession's page on the [IDFPR](#) website. Links to the laws and rules specific to BCENT are available near the bottom of each page.

Summary of Legislative Changes

Scope of practice provisions have been updated and are in effect for cosmetologists to include hydro-therapy facials, superficial microdermabrasion, dermaplaning, and chemical restructuring, lightening, and coloring treatments to hair other than on the scalp for cosmetologists. [Reference Article III, Section 1](#).

Scope of practice provisions have been updated and are in effect for estheticians to include hydro-therapy facials, superficial microdermabrasion, dermaplaning, and chemical restructuring, lightening, and coloring treatments to hair other than on the scalp. [Reference Article IIIA, Section 1](#).

Explicit provisions for permitting teachers and cosmetology licensees with active licenses to easily obtain the base license or derivative licenses were added to [Article I, Section 7](#). This change is effective in 2026.

A barber, cosmetologist, nail technician, esthetician, or hair braider who has a teaching license to teach in Illinois can apply to be a teacher of their profession without taking the teaching courses at a BCENT school in 2026. [Reference Article I, Section 14](#).

Beginning in 2026, salons and shops will be required to designate a licensee in charge. [Reference Article IIID, Section 5](#).

Also in 2026, salons and shops will be required to prominently display a Department-approved sign regarding complaints. That sign is available on the IDFPR website as well as here: [Salon/Shop Signage](#). [Reference Article I, Section 10](#).

continued on page 6

Summary of Rules Changes

[Barber](#) and [Cosmetology](#) curricula now are required to include specified training on different hair types and textures.

[Nail technology endorsement applicants](#) are no longer absolutely required to take the Illinois Nail Technology exam to obtain a license. Endorsement applicants may have an option between a refresher course or the exam, depending on qualifications. This change brings consistency to this licensure method across the BCENT professions.

[Abnormal Skin Growth education](#) is a new, one-time course required to be completed by all new applicants for licensure and for all renewals after January 1, 2026. The Division has initially approved the free online program “Skinny on Skin” by Impact Melanoma, Inc. to ensure ease of compliance for applicants and licensees.

Licensees with the necessary education and experience may now add [additional teacher licenses](#) without completing lengthy, redundant training. The Rules now permit licensees with teacher’s licenses to take only the courses that are not already included in another profession’s curriculum to obtain a teacher’s license in the new profession. For example, a licensed cosmetology teacher would only have to take the shaving and facial hair subjects from the barber curriculum to obtain a barber teacher’s license. What does this mean? Compared to the previous Rule, a well-trained and experienced licensed cosmetology teacher generally subject to an additional 500-hour crossover curriculum requirement may now complete just 50 hours to seek licensure as a barber teacher, reducing a barrier to licensure.



NEW SELF-INSPECTION FORM NOW AVAILABLE FOR SALONS & SHOPS



The Division has made the new Salon/Shop Annual Self-Inspection Form available on all the BCENT profession pages of the IDFPF website. Every registered salon or shop is required to conduct an annual self-inspection using this new form. The annual self-inspection must be conducted during the same month, each year, as determined by the owner of the salon or shop. Salon and shop owners must maintain documentation of the self-inspection for five years and be sure it is available for review by Division investigators upon request. The new form is linked here: [Salon/Shop Annual Self-Inspection Form](#)

RECENT ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

The Division conducts enforcement across all professions. Monthly reports of enforcement actions are available for public review on the [IDFPF website](#). The most recent enforcement actions can be viewed below.

- [October 2025](#)
- [September 2025](#)
- [August 2025](#)
- [July 2025](#)
- [June 2025](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS



The BCENT Board holds a public meeting on a quarterly basis. Meetings are unique in that they are held in-person in two locations and connected virtually. The BCENT Board members attend the meetings at either the IDFPR Springfield office or the IDFPR Chicago office. The two locations are connected by WebEx video conferencing. The public is welcome to join the meetings in-person or virtually.

The remaining scheduled [meeting](#) dates for the current fiscal year include February 2, 2026 and May 4, 2026.

FILE A COMPLAINT

Complaints against any individual or entity regulated by the Division of Professional Regulation may be filed by contacting the Complaint Intake Unit. For information about filing a complaint with the Division, please click here: [File a Complaint](#).

CONTACT US

Chicago Office

555 West Monroe Street, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661

Call Us: 1 (888) 473-4858

TTY/TDD Line: 1 (866) 325-4949

Springfield Office

320 West Washington Street, 3rd Floor
Springfield, IL 62786

