

Is microblading in the scope of practice of esthetics? And, is microblading in the scope of practice of tattooing?

The short answer is that it appears that microblading does not fit within the practice of esthetics but does fit within the practice of tattooing.

What is microblading?

It appears that microblading is the use of hand tools, consisting of fine needles, to create fine incisions in the skin of the eyebrows in which pigment is deposited into the dermis and epidermis to give the appearance of eyebrow hair. The pigment may fade overtime, as is true for traditional tattoos, but considered permanent.

Is it in the scope of practice of esthetics?

The practice of esthetics is defined in ORS 690.005(5) as follows:

“Esthetics” means any of the following skin care or facial care practices performed on the human body or face for the purpose of keeping the skin of the human body or face healthy and attractive and not for medical diagnosis or treatment of disease or physical or mental ailments:

- (a) The use of the hands or mechanical or electric apparatuses or appliances for cleansing, stimulating, manipulating, exfoliating or applying lotions or creams.
- (b) Temporary removal of hair.
- (c) Makeup artistry.
- (d) Eyelash services.
- (e) Facial and body wrapping.
- (f) Facial and body waxing

Due to limited scope of practice it does not appear that microblading is in the scope of practice for an esthetician.

Is microblading in the scope of practice of tattooing?

ORS 690.350(9) defines “tattooing” as follows: “‘Tattooing’ means the process by which a live human being is marked or colored by insertion of non-toxic dyes or pigments to form indelible marks for ornamentation or decoration.”

Based on the definition and the plain language of the statute it appears that microblading does not fit within the definition of esthetics, but does fit within the definition of tattooing.

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