Florida: the rules for aesthetic practice

What Florida's laws and boards say about who may do aesthetic treatments, who must supervise them, and who can own the practice.

Nurse practitioners: Restricted Practice (autonomous practice is primary care only)

Nurse practitioners

Restricted (AANP). APRNs practice under a written protocol with a supervising physician, kept on site at each practice location (Fla. Stat. §464.012). Autonomous practice (§464.0123) is limited to primary care such as family medicine, general pediatrics and general internal medicine; it needs 3,000 clinical hours under a physician within the last 5 years, graduate coursework in differential diagnosis and pharmacology, and no discipline in 5 years. Aesthetic practice is not primary care, so a med spa APRN works under a physician protocol whatever their registration. Controlled substances need a master's or doctoral clinical degree; Schedule II is limited to a 7-day supply. NPs carry malpractice coverage of $100,000 per claim and $300,000 aggregate.

Medical director or supervising physician

The supervising physician directs the course of medical treatment and notifies the Board of Medicine within 30 days of starting or ending the protocol. If the APRN works at an office other than the physician's primary practice, without the physician on site, and the office offers primarily dermatologic or skin care services (including aesthetic skin care), the physician must be board certified or board eligible in dermatology or plastic surgery, keep the office within 25 miles of their primary practice (or in a contiguous county, offices no more than 75 miles apart), supervise only one such office, and post the hours they are there (§458.348(3)). Offices offering only laser hair removal by an APRN or PA are exempt.

Delegating to RNs, estheticians and staff

Non-physicians doing laser or light-based hair removal must be trained and work under the direct supervision and responsibility of a physician (§458.348(2); Board of Medicine rule 64B8-56.002). The Board of Nursing has answered RN injection questions one petitioner at a time; ask the Board before an RN injects.

Who can own the practice

A business that provides health care and bills insurers or other third-party payers for it needs an AHCA health care clinic license unless an exemption applies (Fla. Stat. §400.9905(4); AHCA Rule 59A-33.006(14)). AHCA reads the law as leaving out cash-only businesses (Florida Senate staff analysis, 2014). A business wholly owned by licensed practitioners, including APRNs but not RNs, is exempt (§400.9905(4)(g)). A licensed clinic appoints a medical director or clinic director who accepts legal responsibility in writing (§400.9935). APRNs still need a physician protocol. Confirm the entity type with a Florida healthcare attorney.

The biggest risk in Florida. A satellite med spa supervised by a physician who isn't a dermatologist or plastic surgeon, is too far away, or supervises more than one such office.

Check it with your boards: Florida Board of Nursing - floridasnursing.gov and Florida Board of Medicine - flboardofmedicine.gov. Checked November 3, 2026. Rules change, so read the current rule on the board's own site before you act.

Ask S.A.G.E. next. S.A.G.E., our AI practice advisor, answers from this same Florida reference, free in your TMAA account, which you can set up at go.medicalaestheticsassociation.com/start-here. Try:

1. I'm an RN in Florida. What has to be in place before I offer injectables?
2. What must my medical director agreement cover in Florida?
3. What can an esthetician do in Florida, and what needs an order?

S.A.G.E. is not legal advice. For a binding answer, talk to a healthcare attorney in your state.