

Hi! My name is Rachel Cheatham, I am a two times certified Black African American lash tech, currently in school at Labarberia Institute in the advance esthetics program to better education myself before providing services. I received my first lash certification in 2019 but I can't say I really took anything away from the class but I was shown a few tricks. Even though I didn't know everything I was doing I still didn't want to give up just yet so I took what I knew and did the best I could with offering services until 2020 when I took my second class in Charlotte, North Carolina by a licensed professional. Now that class was amazing! She gave me all the details I needed to become a successful lash tech. She also told me that this certification is just a piece of paper and honestly means nothing especially when finding a place to work compared to having your license, rather this is a career I want or not it's best to have something under my belt then to spend all this money for nothing, don't go half way go full on. She also warned me that this is a very sensitive field, your dealing with people eyes so I should want to know everything I need to know just in case something did go wrong during a service you always want to be able to identify and solve the situation as soon as possible before you ruin your career for life by not having the correct knowledge. On November 28, 2019 I got my lashes done by the same person I learned lashes from back in 2019 who was indeed my friend but was not licensed. On November 29, 2019 I was having a lot of itching sensation feeling to my eye, I didn't think too much of it at first in the morning but later on that day when the itching intensified I did eventually say something and her response was "it's probably just from the lashes" which still doesn't make it any better because why are the lashes it's self making my eye feel like this. I brushed it off because it was my friend but I couldn't ignore my well being either. She then told me to wash my lashes and that should help, I washed them and they weren't itching as bad so I slept it off praying tomorrow would be different. On November 30, 2019 I could barely open my right eye when I woke up that morning, I grabbed my phone and took pictures to see my eye (see attached). It was swollen red/black and I noticed a white/gray line where the lashes was placed. I rushed to the Cleveland clinic express care immediately. At the end of my appointment I found out that I actually caught Cellulitis in my eye from getting my lashes done with dirty materials. It could've been the tweezers, glue ring, tape or lash brush that caused this. Cellulitis is a bacterial infection in the inner layers of skin, symptoms include redness and increase in swelling. Redness appears and can often turn white as the pressure induces, this infection is a very painful process. The person infected could occasionally feel a fever and tiredness. During the appointment the lashes had to be removed as well and I only had two options either 1.) get them cut off (who the heck would want to cut their eyelashes off!?) or 2.) I could pull them off (so you know what I choose). But just imagine...pulling off your natural lashes one by one literally just imagine the pain and trauma I went through. I couldn't wear lashes for a whole month, I also had to go back to wearing my glasses, and after that experience it took a while for me to every trust anyone on my eyes again. Please don't pass HB 58 as is—amend it for the safety of the public.

Thank you,

Rachel Cheatham





