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## Ionizing Radiation Machines (X-ray)

Medical radiation machines make up the largest man-made source of exposure to the public. In 1958, the state Board of Health began a program to inspect radiation machines. Today over 18,000 facilities, including hospitals, doctors' offices, universities, and corporations, have registered more than 50,000 x-ray machines with the department.

The radiation machine program works to reduce exposure to workers and the public from machines that emit radiation for medical, scientific, educational, and industrial purposes. The program accomplishes this by:

- Stopping unauthorized uses and users,
- Preventing accidental or unintended exposures,
- Ending ineffective or inappropriate uses of radiation, and
- Reducing the amount of exposure needed to accomplish the task.

One way these goals are achieved is through on-site inspections. The department regularly inspects each radiation machine according to a schedule that varies depending upon how the machine is used. This schedule ranges from annually for mammography and cancer therapy machines to every 5 years for dental and podiatry machines. Department staff performed over 13,000 inspections last year. During these inspections they:

- Check the machine to see that it operates as it was designed,
- Ensure the people who use the machine are qualified to do so, and
- Verify the machine is used safely and appropriately.

Contact the Bureau of Radiation Control

- ☎ **850-245-4888 (tel:850-245-4888)**
- ✉ [RadiationControl@FlHealth.gov](mailto:RadiationControl@FlHealth.gov) (mailto:RadiationControl@FlHealth.gov)
- ☎ Fax 850-617-6442
- ➔ **Mailing Address**  
Bureau of Radiation Control  
X-Ray Machine Section  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C21  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1741

[Statutes \(../statutes.html\)](#)

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[Advisory Council on Radiation Protection \(../advisory-council.html\)](#)

If a machine poses an immediate threat to the public health, the department requests its immediate removal from service. For less serious problems, the department gives machine owners 90 days to correct the deficiencies.

### Contact Info:

Clark Eldredge, Environmental Administrator  
Bureau Of Radiation Control  
X-Ray Machine Section  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C21  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1741  
Phone: (850) 245-4888  
FAX: (850) 617-6442

*Under Florida law, **e-mail addresses are public records**. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing (F.S. 668.6076)*

Email us (<mailto:RadiationControl@FlHealth.gov>?  
subject=Ionizing%20Radiation%20Machines)

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Dr. Celeste Philip  
(<http://www.floridahealth.gov/about-the-department-of-health/about-us/ssg/index.html>)

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Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Program  
(<http://www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/brain-and-spinal-cord-injury-program-advisory-council/index.html>)

# The Florida Senate

## 2012 Florida Statutes

<p><b>Title XXXII</b> REGULATION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS</p>	<p><b>Chapter 468</b> MISCELLANEOUS PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS</p> <p><b>Entire Chapter</b></p>	<p><b>SECTION 311</b> <b>Violations; penalties.</b></p>
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**468.311 Violations; penalties.** — Each of the following acts constitutes a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. [775.082](#) or s. [775.083](#):

- (1) Practicing radiologic technology or performing the duties of a radiologist assistant without holding an active certificate to do so.
- (2) Using or attempting to use a certificate which has been suspended or revoked.
- (3) The willful practice of radiologic technology or the willful performance of the duties of a radiologist assistant by a student without a direct supervisor being present.
- (4) Knowingly allowing a student to practice radiologic technology or perform the duties of a radiologist assistant without a direct supervisor being present.
- (5) Obtaining or attempting to obtain a certificate under this part through bribery or fraudulent misrepresentation.
- (6) Using any name or title specified in s. [468.302\(2\)](#) or any other name or title which implies that a person is certified to practice radiologic technology or to perform the duties of a radiologist assistant, unless such person is duly certified as provided in this part.
- (7) Knowingly concealing information relating to the enforcement of this part or rules adopted pursuant to this part.
- (8) Employing, for the purpose of applying ionizing radiation to, or otherwise practicing radiologic technology or any of the duties of a radiologist assistant on, any human being, any individual who is not certified under the provisions of this part.

**History.** —s. 12, ch. 78-383; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 12, 18, 19, ch. 84-269; s. 98, ch. 91-224; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 11, ch. 2006-139.

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## The 2016 Florida Statutes

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Title XXXII  
REGULATION OF PROFESSIONS AND  
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Chapter 468  
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### **468.3101 Disciplinary grounds and actions.—**

(1) The department may make or require to be made any investigations, inspections, evaluations, and tests, and require the submission of any documents and statements, which it considers necessary to determine whether a violation of this part has occurred. The following acts shall be grounds for disciplinary action as set forth in this section:

(a) Procuring, attempting to procure, or renewing a certificate by bribery, by fraudulent misrepresentation, or through an error of the department.

(b) Having a voluntary or mandatory certificate to practice radiologic technology or to perform the duties of a radiologist assistant revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against, including being denied certification, by a national organization; by a specialty board recognized by the department; or by a certification authority of another state, territory, or country.

(c) Being convicted or found guilty, regardless of adjudication, in any jurisdiction of a crime that directly relates to the practice of radiologic technology or to the performance of the duties of a radiologist assistant, or to the ability to practice radiologic technology or the ability to perform the duties of a radiologist assistant. Pleading nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purpose of this provision.

(d) Being convicted or found guilty, regardless of adjudication, in any jurisdiction of a crime against a person. Pleading nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this provision.

(e) Making or filing a false report or record that the certificateholder knows to be false, intentionally or negligently failing to file a report or record required by state or federal law, or willfully impeding or obstructing such filing or inducing another to do so. Such reports or records include only those reports or records which are signed in the capacity of the certificateholder.

(f) Engaging in unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, any departure from, or the failure to conform to, the standards of practice of radiologic technology or the standards of practice for radiologist assistants as established by the department, in which case actual injury need not be established.

(g) Being unable to practice radiologic technology or to perform the duties of a radiologist assistant with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness or use of alcohol, drugs, narcotics, chemicals, or other materials or as a result of any mental or physical condition. A certificateholder affected under this paragraph shall, at reasonable intervals, be afforded an opportunity to demonstrate that he or she can resume the competent practice of his or her certified profession with reasonable skill and safety.

(h) Failing to report to the department any person who the certificateholder knows is in violation of this part or of the rules of the department.

- (i) Violating any provision of this part, any rule of the department, or any lawful order of the department previously entered in a disciplinary proceeding or failing to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena of the department.
- (j) Employing, for the purpose of applying ionizing radiation or otherwise practicing radiologic technology or performing the duties of a radiologist assistant on a human being, any individual who is not certified under the provisions of this part.
- (k) Testing positive for any drug, as defined in s. 112.0455, on any confirmed preemployment or employer-required drug screening when the certificateholder does not have a lawful prescription and legitimate medical reason for using such drug.
- (l) Failing to report to the department in writing within 30 days after the certificateholder has had a voluntary or mandatory certificate to practice radiologic technology or to perform the duties of a radiologist assistant revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against, including being denied certification, by a national organization, by a specialty board recognized by the department, or by a certification authority of another state, territory, or country.
- (m) Having been found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, any offense prohibited under s. 435.04 or similar statute of another jurisdiction.
- (n) Failing to comply with the recommendations of the department's impaired practitioner program for treatment, evaluation, or monitoring. A letter from the director of the impaired practitioner program that the certificateholder is not in compliance shall be considered conclusive proof under this part.
- (2) If the department finds any person or firm guilty of any of the grounds set forth in subsection (1), it may enter an order imposing one or more of the following penalties:
- (a) Refusal to approve an application for certification.
- (b) Revocation or suspension of a certificate.
- (c) Imposition of an administrative fine not to exceed \$1,000 for each count or separate offense.
- (d) Issuance of a reprimand.
- (e) Placement of the certificateholder on probation for such period of time and subject to such conditions as the department may specify, including requiring the certificateholder to submit to treatment, to undertake further relevant education or training, to take an examination, or to work under the supervision of a licensed practitioner.
- (3) The department shall not reinstate a person's certificate, or cause a certificate to be issued to a person it has deemed unqualified, until such time as the department is satisfied that such person has complied with all the terms and conditions set forth in the final order and is capable of safely engaging in the practice of his or her certified profession.
- (4) The department shall, by rule, establish guidelines for the disposition of disciplinary cases involving specific types of violations. Such guidelines may include minimum and maximum fines, periods of suspension or probation, or conditions of probation or reissuance of a certificate.
- (5) A final disciplinary action taken against a certificateholder in another jurisdiction, whether voluntary or mandatory, shall be considered conclusive proof of grounds for a disciplinary proceeding under this part.
- (6) The department may revoke approval of a continuing education provider and its approved courses if the provider's certification has been revoked, suspended, or otherwise acted against by a national organization; by a specialty board recognized by the department; or by a certification authority of another state, territory, or country. The department may establish by rule additional guidelines and criteria for the discipline of continuing education providers, including, but not limited to, revoking approval of a continuing education provider or a

continuing education course and refusing to approve a continuing education provider or continuing education course.

**History.**—ss. 15, 19, ch. 84-269; s. 9, ch. 88-310; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 289, ch. 97-103; s. 74, ch. 97-237; s. 45, ch. 2004-350; s. 10, ch. 2006-139; s. 52, ch. 2010-114.

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# The Florida Senate

## 2012 Florida Statutes

<p><u>Title XXXII</u> REGULATION OF PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS</p>	<p><u>Chapter 468</u> MISCELLANEOUS PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS</p> <p><u>Entire Chapter</u></p>	<p><b>SECTION 302</b> <b>Use of radiation; identification of certified persons; limitations; exceptions.</b></p>
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### **468.302 Use of radiation; identification of certified persons; limitations; exceptions. —**

(1) Except as provided in this section, a person may not use radiation or otherwise practice radiologic technology or any of the duties of a radiologist assistant on a human being unless he or she:

- (a) Is a licensed practitioner;
- (b) Is the holder of a certificate, as provided in this part, and is operating under the direct supervision or general supervision of a licensed practitioner in each particular case; or
- (c) Is the holder of a radiologist assistant certificate, as provided in this part, and is operating under the supervision of a radiologist, as specified in paragraph (3)(h).

(2)(a) A person holding a certificate as a basic X-ray machine operator may use the title "Basic X-ray Machine Operator."

(b) A person holding a certificate as a basic X-ray machine operator-podiatric medicine may use the title "Basic X-ray Machine Operator-Podiatric Medicine."

(c) A person holding a certificate as a general radiographer may use the title "Certified Radiologic Technologist-Radiographer" or the letters "CRT-R" after his or her name.

(d) A person holding a certificate as a limited computed tomography technologist may use the title "Certified Radiologic Technologist-Computed Tomography" or the letters "CRT-C" after his or her name.

(e) A person holding a certificate as a radiation therapy technologist may use the title "Certified Radiologic Technologist-Therapy" or the letters "CRT-T" after his or her name.

(f) A person holding a certificate as a nuclear medicine technologist may use the title "Certified Radiologic Technologist-Nuclear Medicine" or the letters "CRT-N" after his or her name.

(g) A person holding a certificate as a radiologist assistant may use the title "Certified Radiologist Assistant" or the letters "CRA" after his or her name.

(h) A person holding a certificate as a specialty technologist may use the title "Certified Radiologic Technologist-X" or the letters "CRT-X" after his or her name, where "X" represents a single- or multiple-letter designation signifying the advanced, postprimary, or specialty area of radiologic technology, such as "CT" for computed tomography or "PET" for positron emission tomography, in which the person is certified by a national organization. The department shall approve these letter designations by rule for each area, consistent with the designation used by a national organization.

No other person is entitled to so use a title or letters contained in this subsection or to hold himself or herself out in any way, whether orally or in writing, expressly or by implication, as being so certified.

(3)(a) A person holding a certificate as a basic X-ray machine operator may perform general diagnostic radiographic and general fluoroscopic procedures, specifically excluding nuclear medicine and radiation therapy procedures, under the direct supervision and control of a licensed practitioner in that practitioner's office or in a hospital pursuant to

paragraph (b). A basic X-ray machine operator may participate in additional approved programs as provided by rule of the department.

(b) A basic X-ray machine operator or basic X-ray machine operator-podiatric medicine may not practice radiologic technology in walk-in emergency centers, freestanding breast clinics, freestanding cancer clinics, state mental hospitals, state correctional institutions, or in any facility regulated under chapter 390, chapter 392, chapter 393, chapter 394, or chapter 641. For a facility licensed under chapter 395, a basic X-ray machine operator may only perform the procedures specified in paragraph (a) in a hospital with a capacity of 150 beds or less. If such a hospital has or acquires radiographic or fluoroscopic equipment other than general diagnostic radiographic and general fluoroscopic equipment, that hospital shall keep a record documenting which personnel performed each radiographic or fluoroscopic procedure. For purposes of this paragraph, a walk-in emergency center shall not include a physician-operated walk-in clinic which operates with or without appointments and with extended hours and which does not hold itself out to the public as an emergency center.

(c) A person holding a certificate as a basic X-ray machine operator-podiatric medicine may perform only podiatric radiographic procedures under the direct supervision and control of a licensed podiatric physician.

(d) A person holding a certificate as a general radiographer may not perform nuclear medicine and radiation therapy procedures, except as provided in this paragraph. A person who is a general radiographer certified pursuant to this part who receives additional training and skills in radiation therapy technology procedures as referenced in this paragraph may assist with managing patients undergoing radiation therapy treatments if that assistance is provided to a person registered with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists in radiation therapy who is also certified pursuant to this part as a radiation therapy technologist. Both the general radiographer and the radiation therapy technologist must perform these radiation therapy services under the general supervision of a physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459 who is trained and skilled in performing radiation therapy treatments. The radiation therapy technologist identified under this paragraph may not delegate any function to the general radiographer which could reasonably be expected to create an unnecessary danger to a patient's life, health, or safety. The general radiographer identified under this section may not, however, perform the following services while assisting the radiation therapy technologist: radiation treatment planning, calculation of radiation therapy doses, or any of the duties of a medical physicist. The general radiographer identified under this section must successfully complete a training program in the following areas before assisting with radiation therapy technology duties:

1. Principles of radiation therapy treatment;
2. Biological effects of radiation;
3. Radiation exposure and monitoring;
4. Radiation safety and protection;
5. Evaluation and handling of radiographic treatment equipment and accessories; and
6. Patient positioning for radiation therapy treatment.

In addition, a general radiographer may participate in additional approved programs as provided by rule of the department.

(e) A person holding a certificate as a limited computed tomography technologist may perform only diagnostic computed tomography examinations.

(f) A person holding a certificate as a radiation therapy technologist may administer only X radiation and ionizing radiation emitted from particle accelerators and external beam teletherapy from sealed sources of radioactive material to human beings for therapeutic or simulation purposes.



- (g)1. A person holding a certificate as a nuclear medicine technologist may only:
- a. Conduct in vivo and in vitro measurements of radioactivity and administer radiopharmaceuticals to human beings for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.
  - b. Administer X radiation from a combination nuclear medicine-computed tomography device if that radiation is administered as an integral part of a nuclear medicine procedure that uses an automated computed tomography protocol for the purposes of attenuation correction and anatomical localization and the person has received device-specific training on the combination device.
2. The authority of a nuclear medicine technologist under this paragraph excludes:
- a. Radioimmunoassay and other clinical laboratory testing regulated pursuant to chapter 483;
  - b. Creating or modifying automated computed tomography protocols; and
  - c. Any other operation of a computed tomography device, especially for the purposes of stand-alone diagnostic imaging, which must be performed by a general radiographer certified under this part.
- (h) A person holding a certificate as a radiologist assistant may:
1. Perform specific duties allowed for a radiologist assistant as defined by the department by rule. The rule must be consistent with guidelines adopted by the American College of Radiology, the American Society of Radiologic Technologists, and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, with the level of supervision required by such guidelines.
  2. Not perform nuclear medicine or radiation therapy procedures unless currently certified and trained to perform those duties under the person's nuclear medicine technologist or radiation therapy technologist certificate; not interpret images; not make diagnoses; and not prescribe medications or therapies.
- (i) A person holding a certificate as a specialty technologist may perform the specific duties allowed for a specialty technologist as defined by rule of the department. These duties must fall within the scope of practice for that particular advanced, postprimary, or specialty area as set by a national organization.
- (4) A person holding a certificate as a radiologic technologist may only use radiation or radiation-producing equipment on human beings for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes while operating, in each particular case, under the general supervision of a licensed practitioner and only if the application of radiation is limited to those persons or parts of the human body specified in the law under which the practitioner is licensed.
- (5) Nothing contained in this part relating to radiologic technology or a radiologist assistant shall be construed to limit, enlarge, or affect in any respect the practice by duly licensed practitioners of their respective professions.
- (6) Requirement for certification does not apply to:
- (a) A hospital resident who is not a licensed practitioner in this state or a student enrolled in and attending a school or college of medicine, osteopathic medicine, chiropractic medicine, podiatric medicine, or chiropractic medicine or a radiologic technology educational program or radiologist assistant educational program and who applies radiation to a human being while under the direct supervision of a licensed practitioner.
  - (b) A person who is engaged in performing the duties of a radiologic technologist or of a radiologist assistant in his or her employment by a governmental agency of the United States.
  - (c) A person who is trained and skilled in cardiopulmonary technology and who provides cardiopulmonary technology services at the direction, and under the direct supervision, of a licensed practitioner.
- (7) A person who is licensed pursuant to chapter 483 to perform nuclear medicine procedures is not required to be certificated under this part, provided such person does not perform any other procedures regulated under this part.

**History.**—s. 3, ch. 78-383; s. 2, ch. 81-318; ss. 4, 18, 19, ch. 84-269; s. 13, ch. 86-287; s. 2, ch. 88-310; s. 4, ch. 91-429; s. 6, ch. 96-309; s. 1113, ch. 97-103; s. 52, ch. 97-264; ss. 212, 282, ch. 98-166; s. 108, ch. 2001-277; s. 38, ch. 2004-350; s. 3, ch. 2006-139; s. 2, ch. 2012-168.

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