



STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

Florida's Future...

**Right Here.
Right Now.**

April 10, 2002

Jeb Bush
Governor

Kim Binkley-Seyer
Secretary

Division of Hotels &
Restaurants

Office of the Director

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Dear Mr. DiFonzo:

Thank you for your letter inquiring whether patrons are required by law to wear shoes in public places. While it is a common misconception that shoes are mandated by the health authorities, there is no statutory requirement mandating that shoes be worn in restaurants, hotels and motels, or retail establishments.

In many parts of our tourism-based state, particularly the beach locations, patrons may access public places routinely in beachwear only - no shirts or shoes required. Most public places require shoes as a policy for obvious safety reasons or in compliance with insurance / liability coverage requirements. Establishments have the right as private enterprises to establish rules and policies regarding patrons, including refusal of service, provided there is no discrimination relative to race, creed, color, sex, physical disability, or national origin.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have questions or find we may assist you with other matters of sanitation or safety in a Florida public lodging or food service establishment, please contact us. Our contact information is at www.hospitalityeducation.org on the Internet or you may call us at 850-488-9263.

Sincerely,

Lee M. Cornman
Technical Coordinator