

Warning!

AVOID TATTOO SHOPS IF:

- The business does not have a health permit.
- The practitioner does not have a current registration.
- Needles are used on multiple clients.
- There is visible blood anywhere.
- There are animals present.
- There are signs of rodents or insects.
- There is no handsink, running water, soap or paper towels.
- The practitioner is eating, drinking or smoking at the workstation.

MINORS AND BODY ART

State law limits the body procedures that minors can receive. People under the age of 18 can receive body piercings only with written permission from a parent or guardian. Piercings on a minor cannot be done in the nipples or genital areas, even with written permission. People under the age of 18 cannot receive a tattoo, even with the permission of a parent or guardian.

For more information on tattoo regulations and documents, call 925-692-2500 or visit our website at <http://www.cchealth.org/eh/>



Contra Costa Environmental Health



TATTOO & BODY ART

CONSUMER INFORMATION



Introduction

Tattooing and piercing are popular forms of body art. Tattooing is the insertion of a pigment (or ink) into human skin tissue using a needle. The California Safe Body Art Act established statewide minimum standards for the regulation of tattoo, piercing and permanent cosmetic businesses. Businesses that do only ear piercing are not covered by this law.

These standards, discussed in this brochure, are intended to protect both the practitioner and customer from infectious diseases by ensuring sanitary procedures, including the use of sterile equipment. The Environmental Health Division of Contra Costa Health Services enforces the Safe Body Art Act throughout the county.



What a Consumer Should Know

BLOOD-BORNE DISEASES

Contaminated equipment and unsanitary procedures can spread blood-borne diseases, including those caused by the following micro-organisms:

- Hepatitis B virus
- Hepatitis C virus
- MRSA (a dangerous antibiotic-resistant bacteria)
- Clostridium tetani (causes tetanus)
- HIV

All of these micro-organisms can cause serious illness.

BEFORE YOUR TATTOO

The tattoo artist must obtain your written consent and verify that you are 18 or older, as well as have you fill out a health questionnaire. Before starting your tattoo, the artist must wash his or her hands. The skin where the tattoo will be placed must be adequately cleaned using an antiseptic or antimicrobial solution. The tattoo artist must wear clean and disposable gloves throughout the procedure.

AFTER YOUR TATTOO

The tattoo artist must place used needles into a red medical waste container. Any unused ink must be discarded. The artist must appropriately cover the tattoo site and provide the client with aftercare instructions about how to care for your body art, as well as answer any questions you may have.

POST-PROCEDURE CONCERNS

Certain symptoms may occur after your tattoo or piercing that could be signs of an infection and require medical attention:

- Redness, swelling, tenderness at the procedure site.
- Red streaks going from the procedure site toward the heart.
- Fever
- Discharge of pus

If you feel your tattoo is not healing properly or may be infected, seek medical attention.

THE TATTOO ARTIST

To protect yourself from infections, disease and scars, make sure your tattoo or body piercing is done in a clean and safe environment. Your body artist should:

- Maintain current individual registration with Contra Costa Environmental Health.
- Be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.
- Wear clean gloves throughout procedure.
- Use equipment that is cleaned and disinfected between clients.
- Use sterile needles.
- Use sterile ink in single use containers.
- Complete blood-borne pathogen training.
- Have at least six months experience.

THE TATTOO FACILITY

The tattooing area must be a sanitary environment. Your tattoo facility should:

- Have a posted current health permit.
- Be separate from any residential areas.
- Have floors, walls and ceilings that are clean and in good condition.
- Have adequate lighting.
- Be equipped with a handsink that has warm water, single-service soap and paper towels.
- Not have animals in the procedure area.
- Not have evidence of rodents or insects.