

PURPOSE

Body art regulations establish reasonable health standards for individuals performing body art procedures and their facilities. These standards coupled with public education strengthen the health and safety of all individuals performing and receiving these services.

Body art is an exciting and popular form of expression that should only be performed by a professional body artist. This artist should know how to correctly perform the procedure, maintain a safe and clean environment, and perform proper sterilization of equipment. Artists are required to maintain current certification in First Aid/CPR, and Bloodborne Pathogens. Procedures shall only be performed in a permitted establishment by a licensed artist.

Under O.C.G.A § 31-40-7 any person, firm, or corporation operating a tattoo studio without a valid permit or performing tattooing outside of a licensed tattoo studio shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

SELECTING A BODY ARTIST

- ✓ Make sure that the shop has a permit, inspection report, and the artist is licensed. (These should be posted for public view.)
- ✓ The artist should not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

- ✓ Look over the shop for general cleanliness.
- ✓ Ask Questions
- ✓ Ask for References
- ✓ If the shop is using reusable tubes or performing piercings, ask if they have an autoclave, and for monthly spore test results. The results should be negative or sterile.
- ✓ The artist should open any sterilized package in front of the client during the setup of the procedure.
- ✓ The client will be required to sign a release form and receive written aftercare instructions.
- ✓ Medical grade disposable gloves shall be worn during all stages of the body art procedure.
- ✓ If shaving is necessary, single-use disposable razors shall be used.
- ✓ During body art preparation the site shall be cleaned with soap and water, rinsed with clean water, and germicidal solution applied prior to the procedure.
- ✓ After the procedure the area should be washed with an antimicrobial solution and a layer of antibacterial solution applied and covered with a sterile bandage/dressing using a sealed non-sticking pad or wrap.
- ✓ Any single-use items shall be disposed of after each client.
- ✓ Any needles or sharps shall be discarded into a sharps container.

PROHIBITED BODY ART PROCEDURES

- Implants, 3-D procedures and any procedure involving medical equipment such as scalpels or derma punches.
- Tattooing anyone under the age of 18.
- Piercing anyone under the age of 18 without parental or legal guardians consent. Nipples and genital piercings are prohibited on minors regardless of parental or legal guardians consent.
- Tattooing, Piercing, or Permanent Cosmetics within 1 inch of the nearest part of the eye socket unless performed by a physician, licensed osteopath, or a technician acting under the direct supervision of a physician or licensed osteopath.

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Body art requires the penetration of the skin, therefore creating a risk of a life threatening infection or disease. Bloodborne viruses such as Hepatitis B virus (HBV), Hepatitis C virus (HCV), and Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

- ❖ Can be transmitted unless sterile techniques are used.
- ❖ Can produce chronic infections.
- ❖ Are often carried by people unaware of their infection.
- HIV
 - <http://www.aids.gov/>
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/basic/>
- Hepatitis B
 - <http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/HBV/index.htm>

WARNING!!

Risk of being infected with HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis or another disease is greatly increased when body art procedures are performed by people out of their homes or unpermitted shops. These people are referred to as “scratchers” and may become defensive and/or apprehensive when asked questions about proper procedure and sterilization.

BODY ART INFORMATION

TATTOOING

- Only commercially packaged single-use pre-sterilized needles shall be used.
- The tattoo machine, clip cord sleeve, and any contact surfaces must be covered with a disposable plastic sheath and/or barrier film.
- All single-use items shall be discarded after each procedure, and include, but are not limited to: paper products, paper or plastic cups, gauze and sanitary coverings, razors, tattooing and piercing needles, stencils, pens, ink cups, and protective gloves.

PIERCING

- Appropriate sized and quality jewelry shall be used on the initial piercing.
- All jewelry, forceps, hemostats, calipers, and tubes should be sterilized in a medical grade autoclave, stored in sterile indicator bags, sealed and dated.
- Only commercially packaged single-use pre-sterilized needles shall be used.
- In the case of oral piercings, the artist shall provide the individual with antiseptic mouthwash in a single-use cup, and shall ensure that the

individual utilizes the mouthwash provided.

- In the case of a lip, labret, or cheek piercing, procedures described in this section for both skin and oral piercings shall be followed.

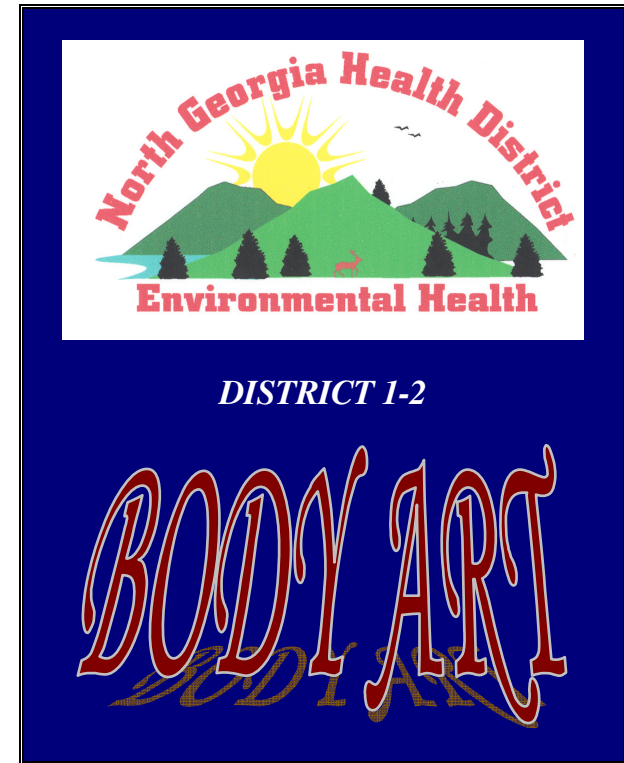
PERMANENT COSMETICS

- If a manual device is used, it shall be single-use and disposable.
- The use of some rotary pens (also called cosmetic machines) is permitted.
- Only rotary machines or other instruments that are engineered to prevent cross-contamination through the use of detachable, disposable, auto-clavable components that can be autoclaved shall be used.

IN CLOSING

As body art continues to grow in popularity as a form of artistic expression and self-expression, it is critical that every artist and customer become educated on ways that he/she can prevent health hazards to themselves and others.

The Body Art Regulations along with Applications are available at <http://www.nghd.org/Environmental-Health/>.



The North Georgia Health District implemented Body Art Regulations on January 1, 2009. These Regulations cover Tattooing, Body Piercing, and Permanent Cosmetics.

Questions and/or Complaints may be directed to the appropriate County Environmental Health Office:

**Cherokee County (770) 479-0444
Fannin County (706) 632-3024
Gilmer County (706) 635-6050
Murray County (706) 517-1400
Pickens County (706) 253-0900
Whitfield County (706) 272-2005**