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## Licensing issues to be aware of before getting a tattoo or body piercing:

- The artist must have a valid license and work out of a studio approved by the Health Inspection Program or at an approved body art show .
- The body artist must post their license at their place of business.
- The Health Inspection Program never licenses artists to work out of the living areas of a residence.
- Tattoo Parties at home residences are illegal.
- State law states that Minors under the age of 18 are not allowed to get a tattoo even with parental permission.

## Sanitary issues to look for at the studio:

- The studio should be clean.
- The area that will be pierced or tattooed must be cleaned and sanitized.
- In general, other than measuring devices, all tools must be disposable (come out of “bubble packs”) or be stainless steel and removed from a sterilized package that was run through an autoclave.
- No reusable tools can be used on subsequent clients without sterilization and/or proper cleaning.
- All disposable items (gauze, razors, pigment cups, water cups, paper towels, tongue depressors, etc.) must never be used on more than one client.
- The artist should be changing their disposable gloves frequently and especially anytime they touch a non-sterile surface.
- The artists must provide written and verbal aftercare instructions.



Needles in “bubble packs”



autoclave bags



unpackaged disposable tube



pigment cup

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Health Inspection Program at 207-287-5671.

Additional Resources:

US Food and Drug Administration:

<https://www.fda.gov/cosmetics/cosmetic-products/tattoos-permanent-makeup-fact-sheet>

<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/think-you-ink-are-tattoos-safe>