



## Frequently asked questions for Body Art:

Q: I am interested in getting a tattoo or piercing at a facility in the Tri-County Health Department (Adams, Arapahoe or Douglas counties) area. Can you recommend a good Body Art facility?

A: As a governmental agency, we do not favor one facility over another. If a body art facility has corrected all of the major violations from their last regular inspection, then they are considered in substantial compliance with the *Rules and Regulations Governing Body Art in the State of Colorado*. Once a facility is in substantial compliance, they are issued a letter stating so. Ask the facility to see this letter from Tri-County Health Department. Inspection reports from each facility are also available on the Tri-County Health Department website.

Q: Can I conduct body art procedures at my residence?

A: You can conduct body art procedures at your residence only if the facility is approved by Tri-County Health Department and local zoning ordinances and has appropriate business/tax licenses.

Q: Does Tri-County Health Department regulate body art procedures performed on minors without parental consent?

A: No. It is a criminal act to perform a body art procedure on a minor without parental consent. Local police departments can be contacted to pursue criminal charges.

Q: Can I get a copy of the *Rules and Regulations Governing Body Art in the State of Colorado*?

A: The regulations are available through the Tri-County Health Department website: <http://www.tchd.org/bodyart.htm> and click on "Body Art Regulations."

Q: I am planning on opening a Body Art facility within Tri-County's territory. What do I need to do?

A: The first thing you need to do is review the *Rules and Regulations Governing Body Art in the State of Colorado*. Below are selected basic requirements and the relevant section number from the regulations:

2-201:

- (a) Possess and demonstrate knowledge of Universal Precautions, disinfection and sterilization techniques, procedures for infection and exposure control required in section 7-701(a), and the Infectious Waste Management Plan required in Section 7-701(b)4.
- (b) Receive vaccination against hepatitis B (HBV) or provide a written statement to the manager or owner of the body art establishment stating that he or she declines the vaccination.

5-505: All surfaces, including, but not limited to, counters, tables, equipment, chairs, recliners, shelving and cabinets in the procedure area and instrument cleaning room shall be made of smooth, nonabsorbent materials to allow for easy cleaning and disinfection.

5-506: Hand sinks shall be supplied with hot and cold running water delivered through a mixing faucet and under pressure. Hand sinks shall be easily accessible to each procedure area and shall be located so that one artist does not potentially contaminate another artist's area. Each hand sink shall be provided with soap and disposable towels or a hand-drying device providing heated air. In addition, a hand sink shall be provided in or adjacent to each toilet room.

5-518: Sharps and Infectious/Regulated Waste must be handled in a manner consistent with §25-15-401, CRS.

(a) Discarded sharps shall be disposed of in sharps containers.

(b) Infectious/Regulated waste other than sharps shall be placed in impervious, tear resistant, plastic bags, which are red in color and marked with the Universal Biological Hazard Symbol.

(c) Sharps and Infectious/Regulated waste shall be disposed of by an approved, off-site treatment facility, or waste may be treated on-site if the treatment complies with all federal, state and local requirements.

(d) On-site treatment requires a written plan outlining disposal as required in Section 7-701(b)4.

Q: Are formal plan reviews required for opening or remodeling Body Art facilities?

A: At this time, we currently do not conduct formal plan reviews for Body Art facilities but we are willing to answer any questions or conduct informal "walk-through inspections" with prospective owners. Once you have opened your facility, you will need to contact us to schedule a time to conduct your first regular inspection.

Q: I am a Body Artist moving to the Tri-County area. Do I need a license from Tri-County Health Department to perform Body Art?

A: You are required to conduct body art procedures in an approved and inspected facility, comply with the *Rules and Regulations Governing Body Art in the State of Colorado* (see link above), and pay a yearly inspection fee. However, a license is not required or issued by Tri-County Health Department.

Q: Do you offer Universal Precautions classes?

A: We do not offer Universal Precautions classes at this time. Contact the American Red Cross or the National Safety Council (the Colorado Chapter is referred to as the Colorado Safety Association).

<http://www.denverredcross.org/>

<http://www.coloradosafety.org/>

Q: I am opening a permanent makeup facility; do the body art regulations apply to me?

A: Yes, permanent makeup is considered tattooing. The definition for tattooing is:

“Inserting pigment under the surface of the human skin or mucosa by pricking with a needle or other means to permanently change the color or appearance of the human skin...”

Q: Do I need a license to be a permanent makeup artist in the Tri-County area?

A: Not through Tri-County Health Department (see question 4) but you are required to comply with the *Rules and Regulations Governing Body Art in the State of Colorado*. The Board of Cosmetology has separate requirements for permanent makeup artists. You must contact the Board of Cosmetology for their requirements.

Q: Do the regulations apply to ear piecing booths?

A: No, the definition of Body Art specifically excludes ear piercing booths, see below:

“Body Art means the practice of physical body adornment by establishments or artists utilizing, but not limited to, the techniques of body piercing, tattooing, branding, sculpting, and scarification. **This definition does not include practices** conducted under the supervision of a physician licensed to practice medicine under Colorado law nor **piercing of the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear by means of sterilized stud-and-clasp ear piercing systems”**

Q: Do the regulations apply to dermatologists, plastic surgeons or doctor’s offices?

A: No, the definition of Body Art specifically excludes practices overseen by a physician:

“Body Art means the practice of physical body adornment by establishments or artists utilizing, but not limited to, the techniques of body piercing, tattooing, branding, sculpting, and scarification. **This definition does not include practices conducted under the supervision of a physician licensed to practice medicine under Colorado law** nor piercing or the outer perimeter or love of the ear by means of sterilized stud-and-clasp ear piercing systems”

**If you have further questions please feel free to contact:**

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