



What defines a tattoo or body piercing?

A tattoo is defined as "any indelible design, letter, scroll, figure, symbol, or other mark placed with the aid of needles or other instruments; or any design, letter, scroll, figure, or symbol done by scarring upon the skin."

A piercing is defined as "the perforation of any human body part other than an earlobe for the purpose of inserting jewelry or other decoration or for some other nonmedical purpose."

What procedures are allowed? Prohibited?

Besides tattooing and body piercing, procedures such as scarification, branding and surface anchor piercing are allowed under the definitions. Permanent makeup is also considered tattooing.

Anything considered a medical procedure, such as tongue splitting, is prohibited. Only ear lobes should be pierced with a piercing gun.

What laws govern body modification?

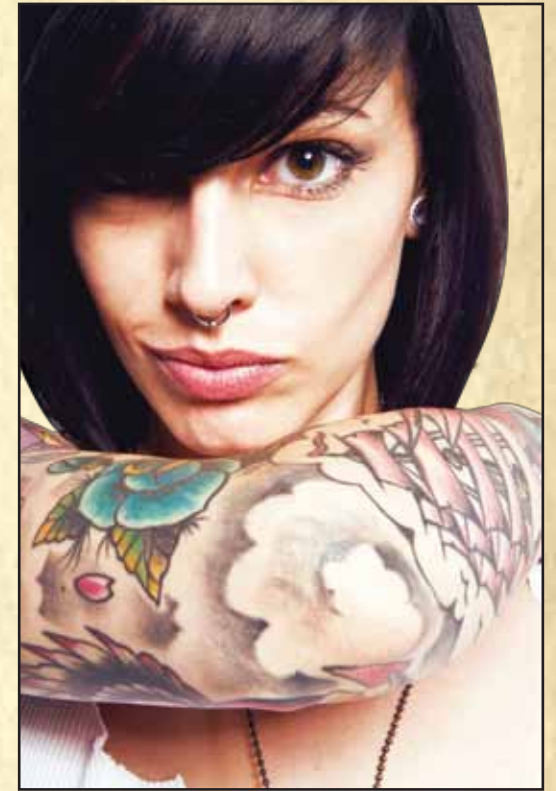
The state rule that regulates body modification is 410 IAC 1-5, Sanitary Operations of Tattoo Parlors, and can be found on the State of Indiana's website: www.in.gov/isdh/20198.htm

County health departments may also establish local ordinances or licensing programs. In Marion County, the ordinance is The Health & Hospital Code, Chapter 19 and can be found here: www.hhcorp.org/HHcode_pdf/19.pdf

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
DEPARTMENT OF WATER QUALITY &
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

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WHAT YOU NEED TO
KNOW
BEFORE YOU GO:
BODY MODIFICATION



MARION COUNTY
PUBLIC
HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

KNOW THE LAWS

What training must tattoo artists and piercers have?

Tattoo artists and body piercers must receive yearly training concerning how diseases are passed on by contact with blood. They are not required to receive training or certification on the tattooing or piercing process.

Are tattoo artists and body piercers required to be registered or licensed?

No. There is no licensing or certification for individual artists in Marion County.

Are tattoo shops required to be licensed in Marion County?

Yes. Any facility offering tattooing or body piercing must obtain a valid license through the Marion County Public Health Department. The license must be posted in the shop.

What are the rules for minors?

In Indiana, anyone under the age of 18 must have parental consent. A parent or legal guardian must sign a consent form and be present during the entire procedure. Failure to do so is a Class A misdemeanor.

Who inspects tattoo shops?

In Marion County, the Marion County Public Health Department's Department of Water Quality & Hazardous Materials Management licenses and inspects all tattoo and body piercing facilities. Shops are required to be inspected at least annually.

How do I file a complaint or inquire about a specific shop?

Contact the Marion County Public Health Department to file a formal complaint or to get more information about a licensed shop.



KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Artists washing their hands and wearing gloves
- Hand-washing facilities present in each booth
- Needles must be sterile and single use
- New ink containers are used for each customer
- Jewelry is sterile in individual packages
- Sterile pouches opened in front of customer
- Plastic barriers are used on tattoo machine, clip cord, bottles or anything that the artist touches during the procedure
- Used needles are placed in sharps container
- Appropriate disinfectants should be used to clean surfaces between each customer
- Patron (customer) rights must be displayed
- No eating, drinking or smoking allowed in booths
- Aftercare is given verbally and in writing
- For shops in Marion County, the license document must be posted in the shop



KNOW THE RISKS

What are the health risks to getting a tattoo or body piercing?

It is possible to get diseases from exposure to blood. The risk of infection is small when the artist is following the regulations.

There has not been a documented case of a body modification client becoming infected with HIV as a result of receiving a tattoo or piercing. However, there have been documented cases of body modification clients becoming infected with hepatitis B or hepatitis C when non-sterile equipment was used.

Other infections that are possible include: blood poisoning, staph infections and skin diseases.

Could I become allergic to a tattoo or body piercing?

Tattoo dyes - especially red dye - can cause allergic skin reactions, resulting in an itchy rash at the tattoo site. Allergies to latex are common; ask the artist to wear non-latex gloves if you have latex allergies.

Exposure to sunlight may also irritate a tattoo and make it look like an allergic reaction. Always avoid direct sunlight during the healing process and wear sunscreen after your tattoo has healed.

Certain materials used in body jewelry - especially nickel - can cause allergic reactions. In addition, jewelry should be internally threaded and properly sterilized. Recommended materials for new piercings include:

- implant-grade surgical steel
- gold (14k or higher)
- titanium, niobium, or platinum
- dense low-porosity plastic (Tygon or PTFE)

What are some signs of infection?

Tattoo artists and body piercers are required to provide aftercare instructions both verbally and in writing. Although some redness and swelling is normal, you should consult your physician if you have any of the following signs of infection:

- thick yellow or green discharge
- pain that continues or gets worse
- continued oozing or bleeding
- any unusual pain or swelling
- red streaks or hot sensation moving away from the tattoo

