



Tattooing and Body Piercing Frequently Asked Questions

Please note – a person shall not advertise or solicit business with the intent of performing tattooing, body piercing, or limited ear-piercing including using the title of tattooist, body piercer or ear piercer, unless registered with the local health department in the district or county where the person is to perform tattooing, body piercing or limited ear-piercing.

1. How do I register as a tattoo artist, body piercer, or limited ear-piercer?

- An applicant shall contact the local health department in the district or county where the applicant intends to perform tattooing, body piercing or limited ear-piercing.
- An applicant for registration shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of application.
- An applicant shall have proof of completion of an approved bloodborne pathogen training.
- An applicant is required to operate under the authority of a Kentucky certified studio.

2. What courses can be used to meet the Bloodborne Pathogen Training requirement?

Any course, either online or in person, that is OSHA compliant and provides opportunity for students to pose questions would be considered sufficient for tattoo artists and piercers. Online training companies should be able to verify whether students have access to instructors for subject-matter questions. Many online training companies list phone numbers or email support for student questions as part of their curriculum.

Below is a short list of compliant online training courses. This is not a complete list; always feel free to contact the Public Safety Branch at 502-564-4537, option 8, if you are unsure that a course meets regulatory requirements.

- Bloodbornepathogentraining.com
- [Pacific Medical Training - Bloodborne Pathogens](#)
- [ProTrainings](#)
- [Biologix Solutions](#)
- [e-Training Inc.](#)
- [HIPAA Exams](#)

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3. **Do I need to register as a tattoo artist for offering permanent makeup services?**

Yes, permanent makeup services including microblading are regulated as tattooing. Permanent makeup artists are required to apply for a tattoo artist registration with the local health department in the county or district where the permanent makeup services are offered and performed. Permanent makeup businesses in salons and/or spas are required to apply for a tattoo studio certificate with the local health department in the county or district where the permanent makeup services are being offered and performed.

4. **If I am a licensed esthetician, do I also need a tattoo artist registration to provide microblading services?**

Yes, licensed estheticians performing microblading services shall be registered as tattoo artists with the local health department in the county or district where the microblading and permanent makeup services are being provided. In addition, the salon and/or spa where the permanent makeup services are being provided shall hold a tattoo studio certificate with the local health department in the county or district where the business is located.

5. **Are body art workstations required to have permanent walls?**

Yes, each body art workstation shall have permanent walls a minimum of four (4) feet high between workstations.

6. **Are body art workstations required to have a minimum amount of floor space?**

Yes, each workstation shall have at least sixty (60) square feet of floor space.

7. **Are sharps containers required in each body art workstation?**

Yes, each workstation shall be equipped with an approved container for disposable sharps that:

- Is rigid, puncture proof and leak proof on sides and bottom; and
- Is closeable and sealable; and
- If sealed, is leak resistant and incapable of being opened without great difficulty.

Contaminated sharps shall be disposed of by using a licensed medical waste disposal company.

8. **Are handwashing sinks required in each workstation?**

Yes, each workstation is required to have a handwashing sink with unimpeded access. A handwashing sink shall not be used for any other purpose. Handwashing sinks shall be equipped with:

- Liquid soap; and
- Single-use paper towels dispensed from a sanitary dispenser.

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9. What is a “Temporary Permit”?

“Temporary Permit” means a permit to operate at a fixed location for no more than seven (7) calendar days. It is nontransferable and cannot be renewed for ninety (90) days after expiration.

10. When do I need to apply for a temporary permit?

If you’re planning to perform tattooing or piercing at a temporary event, you will need to apply for a temporary permit with the local health department in the district or county where the event is taking place 30 days prior to the event.

11. What are the fees for a temporary Body Art event?

There is a \$100 fee for each workstation and a \$100 fee for each artist registration.

12. What are the responsibilities of the temporary event organizer?

At least 30 days prior to the event, the event organizer shall notify the local health department in the district or county where the event is taking place and apply for a permit with the following:

- Permit fee payment; and
- A layout of the event floor showing where the tattoo artists will be tattooing; and
- A list of all tattoo artists participating in the event that includes:
 1. Name of tattoo artist;
 2. Artist date of birth;
 3. Home address;
 4. Phone number;
 5. Email address;
 6. Proof of artist completion of bloodborne pathogen training;
 7. Studio name;
 8. Studio address;
 9. Studio owner name;
 10. Description of procedures to be performed at the event.

The event organizer must also arrange for the pickup and disposal of contaminated sharps by a licensed medical waste disposal company and be able to ensure that the event is run in a manner that is safe for the body artists and the public.

13. What are the requirements for a temporary body art workstation booth?

- Each workstation booth must be at least 50 square feet and be used exclusively for performing body art.

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- Only one (1) body art practitioner is allowed for every 50 square feet of floor space.
- Have floor, sides and surfaces that are smooth, nonporous, and easily cleanable.
- Be equipped with a portable handwashing station; or a minimum of a one (1) gallon container with a lever-type spigot, filled with warm, potable water that is placed at least thirty (30) inches off the floor to allow for easy use with liquid soap dispenser, single-use paper towels from a sanitary dispenser, and a wastewater collection container to catch the handwashing wastewater. Depending on the layout of the workstation booths, up to two (2) adjacent workstation booth may share a centrally located hand washing station with unimpeded access and granted that the organizer provided commercial grade, self-contained portable handwashing sinks with liquid soap and single-use paper towels throughout the event.
- Be equipped with adequate lighting.
- Body artist practitioners must have an adequate supply of pre-sterilized disposable equipment to last the duration of the event, unless the organizer provides a decontamination/sterilization area equipped with a medical grade autoclave.
- Provide certification of an autoclave negative spore test completed within thirty (30) days prior to the event if tattooing with reusable instruments.
- No food, drink, or tobacco products are permitted in the workstation booth.
- No animals allowed within the confines of the booth.

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