

Information for Prospective Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishments

Applicable Codes:

[Chapter SPS 221 Tattoo and Body-Piercing](#)
[Madison General Ordinance 7.15 Regulation of Tattooing and Body-Piercing](#)
[Chapter NR 526 Medical Waste Management](#)
[Dane County Ordinance Chapter 48 Regulation of Tattooing and Body-Piercing](#)

Licenses Required

1. Establishment License Applications and Fee Payment - contact your health inspector at 242-6515 or email health@publichealthmdc.com

2. Practitioner License - [Application Form for Tattooist / Body Piercer](#)

Department of Safety and Professional Services
4822 Madison Yards Way
Madison, WI 53705
Phone: 608-266-2112
FAX: 608-261-7083
E-mail: DSPSTattooBodyArt@wisconsin.gov
Website: <http://dsps.wi.gov>

General Requirements

- Provide consent forms to patrons
- Post a sign in a conspicuous place stating:
 - No person under 18 may be tattooed
 - No person under 16 may be body pierced
 - No person 16-17 may be body pierced unless a legal guardian signs an informed consent
- Keep records of all patrons for 2 years from completion of procedure
- No person may be tattooed or pierced who is under the influence or with evident skin lesions or infections visible at tattoo or piercing site
- Ear piercing is not considered body piercing and there is no age restriction for ear piercing

Facility

- Walls & Ceiling: smooth, light colored, and easily cleanable. Acoustical ceiling tiles are prohibited in the procedure area
- Tattoo area separate from living areas
- A direct outside entrance to the tattoo establishment shall be provided
- A public toilet and hand washing facility must be available
- Hand wash sink or sinks, located conveniently to tattoo and/or body piercing area with hot and cold water, antibacterial soap & paper toweling

Facility (continued)

- Sharps waste shall be stored in an approved container and disposed of accordingly
- Equipment shall be stored in closed cabinets
- A privacy barrier shall be provided for patrons
- Smoking and eating prohibited in area of procedure
- No animals allowed in establishment

Personnel

- All personnel shall post their Practitioner License on premise
- All artists shall perform procedures and maintain themselves in a hygienic manner; long hair tied back or under a hat, no jewelry / watches worn during tattoo/piercing procedures
- Tattooists shall use single use plastic covers or an equivalent to cover procedure chairs/arm rests, spray bottles and other reusable accessories
- Disposable razors shall be used or electric razor screens disinfected between uses
- Body piercing needles shall be disposable, sterile and single patron use only; tattoo needles may be reused if sterilized and stored in an approved manner

Equipment

- Inks and pigments shall be obtained from safe sources
- Ink and pigment cups shall be single use
- Acetate tattoo stencils shall be single use
- Autoclave must meet FDA approval; contact Public Health-Madison & Dane County regarding acceptability of specific autoclaves

Cleaning and Sterilizing

- Equipment requiring sterilization shall be pressure sterilized at the establishment in an autoclave
- Spore tests of the autoclave shall be done monthly and records kept for 1 year
- Facilities using all disposable procedure equipment are not required to have an autoclave
- Patron's skin shall be cleaned followed by application of an antiseptic
- Care and instruction shall be provided to each patron verbally and in written form