

**RICHMOND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
ORDINANCE NO. 2010-01  
RULES AND REGULATIONS  
OF  
BODY ART STUDIOS  
AND TATTOO/BODY PIERCING ARTISTS**

***County Board of Health***

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**I. Authority.**

The legal authority for this Rule is Chapter 16-5-71 and Chapter 31-40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. (O.C.G.A. Chapters 16-5-71, 16-12-5, 31-40-1, 31-40-2, 31-40-3, 31-40-4, 31-40-5, 31-40-6, 31-40-7, 31-40-8, 31-40-9, and 31-5.)

**II. Purpose.**

The purpose of these rules and regulations is to establish reasonable standards for individuals performing body art procedures and for the facilities from which the procedures are provided. If followed such standards should insure the health and safety of all individuals performing and receiving these services.

**III. Exemptions.**

These regulations do not apply to a physician or osteopath licensed under Chapter 34 of Title 43, or a technician acting under the direct supervision of such licensed physician or osteopath. Exemptions may include cosmetic reconstructive surgery or procedures performed under the direct supervision of a physician or osteopath licensed under Chapter 34 of Title 43, or a technician acting under the direct supervision of such licensed physician or osteopath.

#### **IV. Definitions.**

- (1) "Administrative body" means the partnership, corporation, association, or the person or group of persons who maintain and control the body art studio and personnel and who are legally responsible for the operation of the studio.
- (2) "Antimicrobial solution" means any solution used to retard the growth of microorganisms approved for application to human skin and includes all products labeled accordingly as approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- (3) "Antiseptic" means an agent or substance that will destroy or inhibit the growth and development of infectious microorganisms on human skin or mucous membranes.
- (4) "Applicant" means any person who applies for a body art license, guest body art license, body art establishment permit, or temporary body art establishment permit.
- (5) "Approval" means written approval from the department of health indicating that the body art establishment has been inspected and meets all terms of the applicable rules.
- (6) "Approved" means being accepted by the department or local health officer, as appropriate under applicable laws and regulations.
- (7) "Aseptic technique" means to render or maintain free from infectious material so as to prevent transfer or transmission of infectious agents.
- (8) "ASTM" means the American Society for Testing Materials International.
- (9) "Autoclave" means an apparatus for sterilization utilizing steam pressure at a specific temperature over a period of time per manufacturer's specifications.
- (10) "Biohazardous waste" means liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious materials and/or contaminated items, which if compressed, would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state.
- (11) "Blood" means human blood, human blood components, and products made from human blood.
- (12) "Bloodborne pathogens" means pathogenic microorganisms present in human blood that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include but are not limited to Hepatitis B virus (HBV), Hepatitis C virus (HCV), and Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- (13) "Board of Health" means the Local County Board of Health.
- (14) "Body art" means the practice of physical body adornment by means of tattooing, body piercing, or permanent cosmetics. This definition does not include practices considered medical procedures by the Georgia Board of Registration in Medicine such as implants under the skin which are prohibited unless such medical procedures are performed by a person licensed by the Georgia Board of Registration in Medicine.
- (15) "Body art establishment" or "body art studio" means any permanent building or structure on a permanent foundation, holding a valid city or county business license, if applicable, and permit from the County Board of Health where the practices of body art are performed whether or not for profit.
- (16) "Body art establishment permit" or "permit" means the issuance of a written permit by the department to a body art establishment stating that such establishment, after inspection, was found to be in compliance with these regulations.

- (17) "Body artist" means a person at least eighteen (18) years of age who performs tattooing, body piercing or permanent cosmetics, and who is responsible for complying with applicable provisions of these regulations.
- (18) "Body art license" shall mean a license issued by the department to a specifically identified person who is qualified to engage in the practice of body art in accordance with these regulations.
- (19) "Body art regulation" shall mean the rules, regulations and guidelines promulgated by the Board of Health pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-40-1 as amended from time to time.
- (20) "Body piercer" means a person at least eighteen (18) years of age who engages in the practice of body piercing regardless of the type of body ornament utilized or body area to be pierced.
- (21) "Body piercing" means puncturing or penetrating the skin or mucosa of a client utilizing a single-use sterile needle or other sterile instrument for the purpose of inserting jewelry or other adornment into the body for non-medical purposes; body piercing includes ear piercing, except when the ear piercing procedure is performed on the ear lobe with an ear piercing gun using sterile materials.
- (22) "Body piercing establishment" means any permanent building or structure on a permanent foundation holding a valid city or county business license, if applicable, and permit from the County Board of Health where body piercing is performed, including any area under the control of the operator.
- (23) "Business" means any entity that provides body art services or procedures for compensation.
- (24) "Cleaning room" shall mean the area in a body art establishment used in the sterilization, sanitation or other cleaning of instruments or other equipment used for the practice of body art.
- (25) "Client" or "customer" shall mean an individual upon whom one or more body art activities are to be performed.
- (26) "Contaminated" means the presence or the reasonably anticipated presence of blood, other potentially infectious materials, or potentially harmful chemicals on an item or surface.
- (27) "Contaminated waste" shall mean any liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious material; contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious material in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed; items on which there is dried blood or other potentially infectious material and which are capable of releasing these materials during handling; sharps and any wastes containing blood or other potentially infectious materials, as defined by Georgia law.
- (28) "County" means the Local County Board of Health or its duly authorized representatives.
- (29) "Critical item(s)" means those aspects of operation or conditions which, if in violation, constitute the greatest hazards to health and safety, including imminent health hazards. Critical violations shall include the following:
- (a) autoclave does not meet minimum time, pressure or temperature requirements;
  - (b) lack of a negative spore or microbiological monitoring test for quality control at minimum monthly, unless the manufacturer specifies more frequent monitoring, or after forty (40) hours of usage, whichever comes first;
  - (c) non-disposable tubes are not sterilized or were sterilized greater than one (1) year ago;
  - (d) commercially packaged single use presterilized needle assembly with bar exceeds expiration date;
  - (e) work area is not equipped as required or is not stocked;
  - (f) reuse of single use articles;
  - (g) sterile instruments are not properly handled;
  - (h) reusable instruments are not handled properly;

- (i) employees with infectious lesions on hands not restricted from body art procedures;
- (j) employees not practicing proper cleanliness and good hygienic practices;
- (k) water supply not approved or hot and cold running water under pressure not available;
- (l) approved sewage and liquid waste disposal not available or improper disposal of liquid wastes;
- (m) cross connection allowing back-siphonage present in plumbing system;
- (n) toilet and hand washing facilities not available for employees;
- (o) insect and rodent evidence, harborage, or outer opening present;
- (p) toxic items not properly stored, labeled, or used.

- (30) "Decontamination" means the use of physical or chemical means to remove, inactivate, or destroy bloodborne pathogens on a surface or item to the point where they are no longer capable of transmitting infectious particles and the surface or item is rendered safe for handling, use, or disposal.
- (31) "Department" means the Local County Board of Health and/or the Office of Environmental Health or any other designee/agent authorized to act on behalf of the Local County Board of Health such as the Georgia Division of Public Health.
- (32) "Disinfectant" means a solution registered as a disinfectant by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and intended to destroy or inactivate specific viruses, bacteria, or fungi on clean, inanimate surfaces.
- (33) "Disinfection" means the destruction of disease-causing microorganisms on inanimate objects or surfaces, thereby rendering these objects safe for use or handling.
- (34) "Ear piercing" means the puncturing of the outer ear for non-medical purposes.
- (35) "Easily cleanable" means that surfaces are readily accessible and made of such materials and finish and so fabricated that residue may be effectively removed by normal cleaning methods.
- (36) "Environmental health inspector" means an official appointed by the department who is responsible for licensing, permitting, and inspection of body art establishments.
- (37) "EPA" means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- (38) "Equipment" means all machinery, including fixtures, containers, vessels, tools, devices, implements, furniture, display and storage areas, sinks, and all other apparatus and appurtenances used in connection with the operation of a body art establishment.
- (39) "FDA" means the United States Food and Drug Administration.
- (40) "Germicidal solution" means any solution which destroys microorganisms and is so labeled.
- (41) "Gloves" means medical grade disposable single use gloves labeled for surgical or examination purposes.
- (42) "Guest body artist" shall mean a visiting body artist possessing a guest body art license issued by the department to perform body art.
- (43) "Guest body art license" means the issuance of a 30 day license by the department to a qualified body artist. Such license will allow a person to practice body art in accordance with the Body Art Regulations under the direct supervision of a body artist holding a valid body art license issued by the department.
- (44) "Hot water" means water that attains and maintains a minimum temperature of 110°F.

- (45) "Imminent health hazard" means any condition, deficiency, or practice, as discovered by the environmental health inspector which, if not corrected, is very likely to result in disease transmission, injury, or loss of life to any person.
- (46) "Instruments" means hand pieces, needles, needle assembly with bar, and other instruments that may come in contact with a client's body or may be exposed to bodily fluids during any body art procedure.
- (47) "ISO" means the International Standards Organization.
- (48) "Jewelry" means any ornament used in any body art procedure which is inserted into a newly pierced area. Any jewelry shall consist of a material rated by the ASTM or the ISO as being suitable for permanent surgical implant, such as stainless steel, titanium, niobium, solid platinum or a dense low porosity plastic such as Tygon or PTFE. The jewelry must be free of nicks, scratches, or irregular surfaces and must be properly sterilized prior to use. Copies of the jewelry manufacturer's documentation, which verify compliance with standards, must be available for inspection on request. Solid 14 karat or higher, white or yellow nickel-free gold may also be used. Purity verification must be available for inspection on request.
- (49) "Lavatory facilities" means a lavatory providing an adequate supply of potable hot and cold running water under pressure, used solely for washing hands, arms, or other portions of the body. The facility shall include a soap dispenser, soap, and single use disposable towels.
- (50) "Law" means any applicable provision of the State of Georgia statutes and rules of any department or agency.
- (51) "License" shall mean a document issued by the department pursuant to this Body Art Regulation authorizing an individual to conduct allowed body art procedures.
- (52) "Microbiological monitoring for quality control" means the use of a standard spore, to challenge the sterilization process.
- (53) "Minor" means an individual under the age of eighteen (18).
- (54) "NSF" means the National Sanitation Foundation.
- (55) "Occupational exposure" means a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials resulting from the performance of an employee's activities.
- (56) "Operator/owner" means any person, firm, company, corporation or association that owns, controls, operates, conducts, or manages a body art establishment.
- (57) "OSHA" means the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.
- (58) "Other potentially infectious material" means the following human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, saliva, and any other body fluid visibly contaminated with blood.
- (59) "Parenteral" means piercing mucous membranes or the skin barrier through such events as needle sticks and piercings.
- (60) "Permanent cosmetic practitioner" or "micropigmentation practitioner" means a person who practices micropigmentation, except that the term micropigmentation practitioner shall not include in its meaning any physician or osteopath licensed under Chapter 34 of Title 43 or a person acting under the direct control or supervision of such physician or osteopath.

- (61) "Permanent cosmetic procedures" or "micropigmentation procedures" means the application of pigments to or under the skin for cosmetic purposes by permanently changing the color or appearance of the skin. These procedures shall comply with O.C.G.A. relating to tattooing any person.
- (62) "Permit" means departmental approval in writing authorizing the administrative body to operate a body art establishment for the purpose of engaging in the practice or business of body art procedures. Department approval shall be granted solely for the practice of body art pursuant to these regulations.
- (63) "Person" means an individual, any form of business or social organization or any other non-governmental legal entity, including but not limited to corporations, partnerships, limited-liability companies, associations, trusts or unincorporated organizations.
- (64) "Personal protective equipment" means specialized clothing or equipment, such as gloves or lap cloth, worn by an employee for protection against a hazard. General work clothes not intended to function as protection against a hazard are not considered to be personal protective equipment.
- (65) "Personnel" means the permit holder, any person who performs body art, individuals having supervisory or management duties, or any other person employed or working in a body art establishment. This individual may or may not be a body artist.
- (66) "Physician" or "osteopath" means an individual licensed to practice medicine in Georgia.
- (67) "Pierce" or "piercing" means body piercing (see definition No. 21).
- (68) "Potable water" means water that is from an approved water system that is safe for drinking.
- (69) "Premises" means the physical location of an establishment which offers and performs body art procedures.
- (70) "Proof of age" means a driver's license or other generally accepted means of identification that describes the individual as eighteen (18) years of age or older, contains a photograph, and appears on its face to be valid.
- (71) "Registration" means license or permit as applicable to each entity.
- (72) "Safe materials" means articles manufactured for the specific purpose of body art procedures which are unlikely to cause injury or disease under proper use and care.
- (73) "Sanitary" means clean and free of agents of infection or disease.
- (74) "Sanitized" means the application of an U.S. EPA registered sanitizer on a cleaned surface by a process that provides sufficient concentration of chemicals for enough time to reduce the microorganism level, including pathogens, to a safe level on utensils and equipment in accordance with the label instructions.
- (75) "Sewage" means human excreta, all water carried waste, and household wastes from residences, buildings, or commercial and industrial establishments.
- (76) "Sharps" means any object, sterile or contaminated, that may intentionally or accidentally cut or penetrate the skin or mucosa.
- (77) "Sharps container" means a puncture-resistant, leak-proof container that can be closed for handling, storage, transportation, and disposal and that is labeled with the International Biohazard Symbol.

- (78) "Single use" means disposable products or items that are intended for one-time, one-person use and are properly disposed of by appropriate measures after use on each client. Single use items include but are not limited to cotton swabs or balls, single-use micropigmentation instruments, tissues or paper products, paper or plastic cups, gauze and sanitary coverings, razors, tattooing and piercing needles, stencils, ink cups, and protective gloves.
- (79) "Solid waste" means refuse, garbage, trash, rubbish, and any other item(s) which could cause an unsanitary condition or undesirable health and safety conditions.
- (80) "Sterilization" or "sterilize" means the use of a physical or chemical procedure by which all forms of microbial life, including bacteria, viruses, spores, and fungi are destroyed including highly resistant bacterial endospores. This is achieved by holding in an autoclave for fifteen (15) minutes, at fifteen (15) pounds pressure, and at a temperature of two hundred fifty degrees (250° F) Fahrenheit or one hundred twenty-one degrees (121°C) Celsius, or any equivalent procedure resulting in complete destruction of microbial life including spores.
- (81) "Sterilized indicator" means a tape, strip, or other device designed to change color to indicate that sterilization temperature has been achieved during the sterilization procedure.
- (82) "Sterilizer" means an autoclave certified to meet generally accepted medical standards.
- (83) "Tattoo" means to mark or color the skin by pricking in, piercing, or implanting indelible pigments or dyes under the skin.
- (84) "Tattoo artist" means a person at least eighteen (18) years of age who engages in the practice/ service of tattooing regardless of the type of tattoo or area to be tattooed.
- (85) "Tattoo establishment, tattoo parlor, tattoo studio" means any permanent building or structure on a fixed foundation, holding a valid city or county business license if applicable and permit from the County Board of Health, where tattooing is performed, including any area under the control of the operator.
- (86) "Temporary Body Art Establishment" shall mean any location, place, facility or business, whereby an operator has been granted a permit to practice body art by the department for no more than a period of seven consecutive days only for the purpose of product demonstration in connection with conventions or industry trade shows.
- (87) "Ultrasonic cleaning unit" means a unit approved by the department, physically large enough to fully submerge instruments in liquid, which removes all foreign matter from the instruments by means of high frequency oscillations transmitted through the contained liquid.
- (88) "Universal precautions" means treating all blood and body fluids as if they contain blood borne pathogens and taking proper precautions to prevent the spread of any blood borne pathogens. (See Appendix I)
- (89) "Utensil" means any implement, tool, or other similar device used in the storage, preparation, operation, or processing of body art.
- (90) "Violation correction" means a plan for correcting deficiencies in meeting these rules and regulations of the local Board of Health.
- (91) "Waste" means solid waste, sewage, blood and body fluids or other waste resulting from the operation of a body art studio.
- (92) "Work area, work station" means an area where clients receive body art.

## **V. Administrative Body.**

- (1) The administrative body shall be responsible for compliance with the requirements in Chapter 31-40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, with applicable administrative rules and regulations of the local County Board of Health, including but not limited to all applicable statutes, rules and regulations regarding disclosure of ownership.
- (2) The administrative body shall certify in its application the name(s) and exact duties of employees/artists who have been designated as being responsible for carrying out the rules and policies adopted by the administrative body. The following information shall be included: Tax ID Number, DOB, gender, home address, home/work phone numbers, ID photos of all operators/technicians.
- (3) Prior to being granted a permit, each body art studio shall develop a written statement of policies and standard operating procedures including:
  - (a) Sterilization
  - (b) Employee health
  - (c) Sanitizing areas and equipment between clients
  - (d) Disposal of waste
  - (e) Record keeping
  - (f) Client screening
- (4) Prohibited Facilities
  - (a) Neither body art studios nor body art procedures shall be allowed in the same structures or areas used for private residences, other structures used for human habitation, food services, retail sales, grocery stores, convenience stores, or similar locations; however, this does not prohibit body art operations in completely separate areas of certain businesses and considered safe and appropriate by the environmental health inspector and his or her supervisor. Specifically, cosmetic micropigmentation utilizing only single-use instruments and equipment may operate in separate areas of beauty salons and similar establishments of the cosmetology industry; however, cosmetic micropigmentation procedures shall provide complete privacy for clients by means of doors, or at minimum be fully shielded by smooth non-absorbent curtains at least six (6) feet in height, and meet all other applicable rules of Section XV.
  - (b) Body art studios shall not be allowed in automobiles, mobile, transitory or other non-fixed facilities. Such non-fixed facilities include, but are not limited to, mobile trailers, tents, and recreational vehicles.
- (5) Prohibited Procedures
  - (a) Implants, 3-D procedures or other procedures involving insertion of foreign objects under the skin are prohibited.
  - (b) Any body art procedures requiring medical equipment (ex. scalpels, derma punches) shall be prohibited, except that a physician or osteopath licensed under Chapter 34 of Title 43, or a technician acting under the direct supervision of such licensed physician or osteopath shall be authorized to perform such procedures.
  - (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to pierce the body, with the exception of the ear lobes, of any person under the age of 18 for the purposes of allowing the insertion of earrings, jewelry, or similar objects into the body, unless the body piercing is performed in the presence of the person's parent or legal guardian. Nipple and genital piercing is prohibited on minors regardless of parental or legal guardian consent.
  - (d) No person under the age of eighteen (18) shall be tattooed, except that a physician or osteopath licensed under Chapter 34 of Title 43, or a technician acting under the direct supervision of such licensed physician or osteopath shall be authorized to do so.
  - (e) In accordance with O.C.G.A.16-12-5(b), it shall be unlawful for any person to perform permanent tattooing, or cosmetic micropigmentation procedures within any area within one inch of the nearest part of the eye socket unless performed by a physician, licensed osteopath, or a technician acting under the direct supervision of a physician or licensed osteopath.



- (6) Body artists shall not be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs while performing body art procedures.
- (7) Operators shall refuse services to any person who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- (8) A body artist shall not provide service to any person who shows evidence of being mentally incapacitated.
- (9) Live animals shall be excluded from within the body art studio and from adjacent areas within the facility under the control of the permit holder. However, this exclusion does not apply to fish in aquariums. Service animals accompanying disabled persons shall be permitted in the establishment.
- (10) The skin of a body artist shall be free of rash, any lesion or visible sign of infection. A body artist shall not conduct any form of body art activity upon any area of a client that evidences the presence of any rash, lesion or other visible signs of infection.
- (11) No person except a duly licensed physician shall remove or attempt to remove any tattoo. Future removal product(s) used by tattoo artist will require approval by the FDA before use.
- (12) Any future body art procedures not covered within these rules which have the potential for transmitting infectious disease must receive written departmental approval prior to being offered to customers or patrons.
- (13) During all studio operating hours, body art shall only be performed by currently licensed body artist.

## **VI. Minimum Standards.**

- (1) Each studio where body art procedures are administered shall provide a work area separate from observers or visitors. Body artists shall not perform body art procedures simultaneously on different clients in the same work station.
- (2) At least one work area shall provide complete privacy for clients by means of doors, smooth nonabsorbent curtains, or similar department approved partition.
- (3) All new body art establishments permitted after adoption of these rules shall have a minimum floor space of at least four-hundred (400) heated square feet and include all required facilities and equipment specified in these regulations. Cosmetic micropigmentation establishments permitted and contained within a cosmetology businesses or salon shall be exempted from this requirement provided only single-use procedures and equipment are used and meet all other requirements of Section XV.
- (4) A body art establishment shall have a cleaning room to be used exclusively for the cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of instruments.
  - (a) The cleaning room shall have a separate NSF approved instrument sink or stainless steel instrument sink reserved only for instrument disinfectant activities and shall be equipped with hot and cold running water.
  - (b) The cleaning room shall be separated from any other area in the facility by means of doors, smooth nonabsorbent curtains, or similar department approved partition.
  - (c) The cleaning room shall be equipped with an ultrasonic cleaning unit and a medical grade autoclave. The autoclave shall be used to sterilize all non-disposable and reusable body art equipment.
  - (d) The instrument sink, ultrasonic cleaning unit and autoclave shall each be separated by a minimum distance of 48 inches, unless using a splashguard approved by the department.

- (5) A hand washing sink shall be provided for each private work station and every two common workstations. Hand washing sinks shall be no more than 15 feet from any workstation. These are in addition to the required sinks in toilet rooms.
- (6) Any hand washing sink and instrument sink shall not be used as a janitorial sink.
- (7) Each location shall have the facilities to properly dispose of all waste material. All materials (e.g., needles) must be disposed of in accordance with Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Environmental Protection Division – Solid Waste Management – Chapter 391-3-4.15.
- (8) The use of common towels and cloths is prohibited. Hand sinks shall be equipped with a soap dispenser and single use disposable towels.
- (9) Sanitary Facilities and Controls
- (a) Water Supply.
1. Enough potable water for the needs of the body art studio shall be provided from an approved source that is a public water system, or a nonpublic water system that is constructed, maintained and operated according to applicable state or local codes.
  2. Water from a public water system shall meet 40 CFR 141 — National Primary Drinking Water Regulations and state drinking water quality standards
  3. Water from a nonpublic system shall meet state drinking water quality standards.
    - a) Water from a nonpublic water system shall be sampled and tested at least annually and as required by department water quality regulations.
    - b) The most recent sample report for the nonpublic water system shall be retained on file in the body art establishment or the report shall be maintained as specified by state water quality regulations.
- (b) Sewage. All sewage, including liquid water, shall be disposed of by a public sewerage system or by a sewerage disposal system constructed and operated according to law.
- (c) Plumbing. Plumbing shall be sized, installed, and maintained according to law. There shall be no cross-connection between the potable water supply and any other water supply or other source of contamination.
- (10) Toilet Facilities.
- (a) Toilet installation. Toilet facilities shall be designed, installed, and maintained according to law. There shall be separate toilet rooms and/or toilet fixtures to accommodate clients and operators; facilities that have separate equipment cleaning and hand washing areas for personnel may suffice with a common restroom.
- (b) Toilet rooms. Toilet rooms opening directly into work or client waiting areas shall be completely enclosed and shall have tight-fitting, solid doors, which shall be closed except during cleaning or maintenance.
- (c) All toilet rooms shall have sufficient mechanical ventilation to keep them free of excessive heat, steam, condensation, vapors, obnoxious odors, smoke, and fumes.
- (d) Toilet fixtures. Toilet fixtures shall be kept clean and in good repair. A supply of toilet tissue shall be provided at each toilet at all times. Easily cleanable receptacles shall be provided for waste materials. Toilet rooms shall have at least one covered waste receptacle.
- (11) Lavatory Facilities.
- (a) Lavatory installation. Lavatory facilities shall be designed, installed, and maintained according to law. Facilities shall be of sufficient number and location to permit convenient use by clients and operators.
- (b) Lavatory faucets. Each lavatory shall be provided with hot and cold water tempered by means of a mixing valve or combination faucet. Any self-closing, slow-closing, or metering faucet used shall be designed to provide a flow of water for at least 20 seconds without the need to reactivate the faucet.
- (c) Lavatory supplies. A soap dispenser and a supply of antiseptic, hand-cleaning soap or detergent shall be available at each lavatory. A supply of single use sanitary towels shall be conveniently

located near each lavatory. Easily cleanable covered waste receptacles shall be conveniently located near the hand washing facilities.

(d) Lavatory maintenance. Lavatories, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, and all related fixtures shall be kept clean and in good repair.

(12) Solid Waste

(a) Containers.

1. Garbage and refuse shall be kept in durable, easily cleaned containers that do not leak and do not absorb liquids. Containers shall be kept in a clean and sound condition and disposed of according to O.C.G.A. 12-8-20.

2. Containers used in work areas shall be kept covered when not in use and after they are filled.

3. There shall be a sufficient number of containers to hold all the garbage and refuse that accumulate.

(b) Garbage and refuse shall be disposed of at such frequency to prevent the development of odor and the attraction of insects, rodents, or vermin.

(c) Disposal of infectious waste such as blood, fluids, used inks, or other liquid waste may be deposited directly into a drain connected to a sanitary sewer system. Disposable needles and other sharp items shall be placed intact into puncture-resistant containers with a biohazard label before disposal. Filled sharps containers shall be considered regulated waste and must be disposed of in accordance with Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division – Solid Waste Management: Chapter 391-3-4.15.

(d) Waste potentially contaminated with small amounts of blood or other infectious body fluids (e.g., gauze, wipes, disposable lap cloths), which do not meet the definition of regulated waste, shall be double-bagged in sealed, impervious bags to prevent leakage of the contained items. These bags shall be of sufficient strength to prevent breakage or leakage and shall not contain any sharps. The waste bags shall be containerized and disposed of in an approved sanitary landfill.

(13) The premises shall be kept in such condition as to prevent the entrance, harborage, or feeding of insects, rodents, or vermin.

(14) Floor construction

(a) Floors and floor coverings of all work areas, dressing rooms, locker rooms, toilet rooms and vestibules shall be constructed of smooth, nonabsorbent, hard durable material and maintained in good repair.

(b) The floor and wall juncture shall have a minimum 4 inch cove base installed.

(c) The floor and cove base shall be properly sealed.

(d) Carpeting is allowed in the lobby area only and shall be of closely woven construction, properly installed, easily cleanable, and maintained in good repair.

(15) Walls and Ceilings

(a) Maintenance. Walls and ceilings, including doors, windows, skylight, and similar closures shall be constructed of smooth, nonabsorbent, durable material and be maintained in good repair. Additionally, work area(s) floors, walls and ceilings shall be light in color.

(b) Attachments. Light fixtures, vent covers, wall-mounted fans, and similar equipment attached to walls and ceilings shall be easily cleanable and maintained in good repair.

(c) Existing facilities ceilings may be exempted from requirements for smooth, nonabsorbent materials.

(16) Physical Facilities. Floors, walls, ceilings, and attached equipment and decorative materials shall be kept clean and maintained in good repair.

(17) Lighting

(a) Permanently fixed artificial light sources shall be installed to provide at least 50 foot candles of light on all work area surfaces and at equipment washing work levels.

(b) Permanently fixed artificial light sources shall be installed to provide at a distance of 30 inches from the floor at least 10 foot candles of light in all other areas.

- (18) Ventilation. All rooms shall have sufficient ventilation to keep them free of excessive heat, steam, condensation, vapors, obnoxious odors, smoke, and fumes.
- (19) Poisonous or Toxic Materials
- (a) Materials permitted: There shall be present in the body art studio only those poisonous or toxic materials necessary for maintaining the establishment and cleaning or sanitizing equipment, as well as controlling insects and rodents.
  - (b) Labeling of materials: Containers of poisonous or toxic materials shall be prominently and distinctly labeled according to law for easy identification of contents.
  - (c) Toxic items shall be separated from other forms of materials used in body art procedures.
  - (d) Spray bottles may be used for the purpose of cleaning but not for body art procedure preparation.
- (20) Premises
- (a) Body art establishments shall be kept neat, clean, and free of litter and rubbish.
  - (b) Only articles necessary for the operation and maintenance of the body art establishment shall be stored on or within the establishment.
- (21) Animals
- If applicable, all fish aquariums shall be cleaned and maintained in good repair. Reptiles are prohibited due to the possibility of *Salmonella* and other infectious microbes.
- (22) Equipment and Utensils
- (a) Materials
    - 1. Multi-use equipment and utensils shall be constructed and repaired with safe materials, including finishing materials; they shall be corrosion resistant and nonabsorbent; and they shall be smooth, easily cleanable, and durable under conditions of normal use. Single-service articles shall be made from clean, sanitary, and safe materials.
    - 2. Re-use of single service articles is prohibited.
  - (b) Design and Fabrication
    - 1. General: All equipment and utensils, including plastic ware, shall be designed and fabricated for durability under conditions of normal use and shall be resistant to denting, buckling, pitting, and chipping.
      - (i) Body art operational surfaces shall be easily cleanable, smooth, and free of breaks, open seams, cracks, chips, pits, and similar imperfections, as well as free of difficult to clean internal corners and crevices.
      - (ii) Sinks and drain boards shall be self-draining.
    - 2. Operational surfaces: Surfaces of equipment not intended as operational surfaces, but which are exposed to splash or debris or which otherwise require frequent cleaning, shall be designed and fabricated to be smooth, washable, free of unnecessary ledges, projections, or crevices and readily accessible for cleaning. Such surfaces shall be of material and in such repair as to be easily maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
    - 3. Needles, needle assembly with bar, dyes, or pigments shall be designed and manufactured for the sole purpose of body art.
- (23) Aisles and working spaces: Aisles and working spaces between units of equipment and walls shall be unobstructed and of sufficient width to permit employees to perform their duties readily without contamination of equipment or of operational surfaces by clothing or personal contact.
- (24) Minimum supplies of establishment: Each work station is to be equipped or stocked in the following manner:
- (a) Body Tattooing Establishments:

- a minimum of six (6) commercially packaged single use presterilized needle assembly with bar and six (6) sterilized needle tubes;

Body Piercing Establishments:

- a minimum of six (6) commercially packaged single use presterilized needles, six (6) sterilized needle tubes, six (6) sterilized forceps, and six (6) sterilized hemostats;

Cosmetic Tattooing or Micropigmentation Establishments (with single-use only equipment):

- a minimum of six (6) single-use pens or equivalent instruments.

- (b) A minimum of four extra packages of disposable towels other than the package that is being used;
- (c) A minimum of three extra boxes of medical grade disposable gloves other than the box being used;
- (d) An extra supply of bandages, ointment or gel, and antimicrobial soap.

(25) Temporary facilities shall meet the requirements of these regulations. Additional requirements include;

- (a) Hand washing facilities located within each work or demonstration area.
- (b) Hand washing facilities shall consist of liquid antimicrobial hand soap, single-use paper towels and warm potable water dispensed from an insulated container that contains at least 5 gallons of potable water with a spigot that is raised a minimum of 25 inches off the floor.
- (c) Waste water shall be collected in a bucket that will hold at least 5 gallons of waste water placed on the floor under the spigot. Warm potable water shall be replenished and wastewater removed as necessary to the sanitary sewer system, or, in the absence thereof, in a manner approved by the department.
- (d) Only single use disposable sterilized supplies can be used.

## **VII. Furnishings and Fixtures.**

- (1) Furnishings of the body art studio shall be maintained in good condition, intact, and functional. Furnishings should be made of or covered in a material that is easily cleanable and non-absorbent. The studio shall be kept clean, neat, and free of litter and rubbish.
- (2) Cabinets and closed sealable containers for the storage of instruments, dyes, pigments, single use articles (ex. gloves, ink caps, carbon, stencils, etc.) shall be provided for each body artist and shall be maintained in a sanitary manner which protects them from contamination.
- (3) Work tables and chairs shall be provided for each body artist.
  - (a) All exposed surfaces of all worktables and chairs shall be constructed of material, which is smooth, nonabsorbent, corrosive resistant, and easily sanitized.
  - (b) All exposed surfaces of work tables and chairs shall be sanitized with an antimicrobial solution after each application.

## **VIII. Supplies.**

- (1) Bulk single use articles shall be commercially packaged and handled to protect them from contamination. These articles shall be stored in an area separate from the work area and toilet facilities.
- (2) All materials applied to the human skin shall be from single use containers and shall be disposed of after each use.

## **IX. Sanitation.**

- (1) Use aseptic technique. Thorough hand washing is essential after client contact, after handling blood and body fluids, after wearing gloves, and prior to exiting the work area.
- (2) Prior to the start of the body art procedure, the artist should inspect his/her hands for hangnails, small cuts, sores, and abrasions. If a cut, sore, or abrasion is detected, a bandage should be applied for added protection before gloving. Trim fingernails to insure that gloves are not punctured.
- (3) Before performing body art procedures, the artist must thoroughly wash their hands in hot running water with liquid soap, then rinse hands and dry with disposable paper towels. Use of hand sanitizers is recommended after each hand washing. Hand washing shall be done as often as necessary to remove contaminants.
- (4) Medical grade single use disposable latex or approved non-latex examination gloves shall be worn during the body art procedure. Gloves shall be changed and properly disposed of each time there is an interruption in the body art procedure, the gloves become torn or punctured, or whenever their ability to function is compromised. Under no circumstances shall a single pair of gloves be used on more than one individual.
- (5) A body artist shall maintain the highest degree of personal cleanliness, conform to standard hygienic practices, and wear clean clothes, apron, or smock when performing body art procedures. If contaminated, these items shall be changed after each client.
- (6) The skin of the artist shall be free of rash or infection. No artist affected with boils, infected wounds, open sores, abrasions, weeping dermatological lesions or acute respiratory infection shall work in any area of a body art establishment in any capacity in which there is a likelihood that the individual could contaminate body art equipment, supplies, or working surfaces with body substances or pathogenic organisms.
- (7) Only single-use disposable razors shall be used to shave the area receiving body art.
- (8) Any item or instrument used for body art that is contaminated during the procedure shall be discarded and replaced immediately with a new disposable item or a new sterilized instrument or item before the procedure resumes.
- (9) Universal precautions, as defined in these rules, shall be observed to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. All employees shall be trained in universal precautions.
  - (a) Assume all human blood, plasma, serum, body fluids (semen, saliva, breast milk, vaginal secretions and any fluid contaminated with blood) and tissues to be contaminated with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and/or Hepatitis viruses (e.g., HBV, HCV).
  - (b) The most susceptible route of occupational infection for HIV, HBV, and HCV is by accidental needle sticks, but may include contamination of the mucous membranes, or through broken, abraded, or irritated skin. Use appropriate caution and maximum protection to prevent such contact.
  - (c) Proper decontamination procedures, emergency biohazard spill management, and proper use of biosafety equipment shall be utilized.
  - (d) Use aseptic technique. Thorough hand washing is essential after client contact, after handling blood and body fluids, after wearing gloves, and prior to exiting the work area.
  - (e) Dispose of needles and other sharps in puncture proof, auto-clavable containers, or disposable biohazard containers.
  - (f) All regulated wastes shall be disposed of in labeled, manufacturer's color-coded waste containers.
  - (g) Infectious material spills shall be cleaned using an EPA registered disinfectant and universal precautions.
  - (h) Clean all work areas and equipment used in handling human biohazardous materials with an EPA registered disinfectant when concluding work to protect personnel from accidental infection.

- (i) Eating, drinking, smoking, and applying cosmetics or lip balm are not permitted in the work area. Food shall be stored in cabinets or refrigerators designated and used for this purpose only. Food storage cabinets or refrigerators shall be located outside the work area.
- (j) All procedures shall be performed carefully to minimize the creation of aerosols.
- (k) Employees shall report all work related accidents, incidents, and unexplained illness to your supervisor and/or physician immediately.
- (l) Soiled gloves shall be removed in a manner to minimize the risk of self contamination or cross contamination after each operation and prior to contacting work surfaces, door knobs, wall switches, or telephones. Dispose of used gloves in a bagged, trash container.

## **X. Sterilization.**

- (1) An ultrasonic cleaning unit and operational medical grade autoclave shall be provided in each body art studio.
- (2) Ultrasonic cleaning units shall be clearly labeled "biohazardous" and placed away from the autoclave and workstations.
- (3) Only solution approved by the manufacturer shall be used in the ultrasonic cleaner and autoclave.
- (4) The ultrasonic cleaning unit and medical grade autoclave shall be used and maintained according to manufacturer's specifications. Each ultrasonic cleaning unit and medical grade autoclave shall be emptied and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at least once each day that the unit is used. The ultrasonic cleaning unit and autoclave shall be made available for inspection.
- (5) Used non-disposable instruments shall be kept in a separate puncture resistant container until cleaned. The cleaning method shall include the following:
  - (a) Instruments shall be placed into an ultrasonic cleaning unit.
  - (b) After removal from the ultrasonic cleaning unit, the instrument shall then be brush scrubbed in hot water and soap, then rinsed in clean water.
  - (c) Instruments shall then be packed individually in sterilized packs and sterilized in a medical grade autoclave. All sterilized packs shall contain either a sterilized indicator or internal temperature indicator.
  - (d) Prior to being placed in the autoclave all equipment shall be bagged, labeled, initialed, dated and sealed.
  - (e) Each autoclave bag may hold no more than one individual item.
- (6) After sterilization, the packaged instruments shall be stored in a clean dry cabinet or other tightly covered container reserved and labeled for storage of sterile instruments.
- (7) If a sterilized package has been breached or allowed to get wet, the instrument(s) must be re-packaged and sterilized again before use.
- (8) A log of sterilization procedures shall be maintained near the sterilizing equipment. Included in the log shall be type of load, quantity of load, temperature, pressure and length of sterilizing time.
- (9) An independent commercial testing laboratory contracted by the operator/ body artist or both shall perform biological spore testing of the autoclave at minimum monthly, unless the manufacturer specifies more frequent monitoring, or after forty (40) hours of usage, whichever comes first. A provision shall be included in the contract between the operator/body artist or both with the commercial testing laboratory requiring the commercial testing facility to notify the department of any failure of the autoclave to eradicate all living organisms, including spores. The biological spore testing results must be kept at location for a minimum of two years.

- (10) Upon notification of a positive microbiological monitoring report, the sterilizer shall be immediately checked for proper use and function and the operator shall cease use of the sterilizer immediately upon receipt of the positive report. Three consecutive negative biological tests must be achieved before the studio is reopened. The studio shall have the option to obtain a properly functioning sterilizer with a negative biological report in order to remain open.

#### **XI. Dyes and Pigments.**

- (1) All dyes and pigments used in tattooing shall be from commercial professional suppliers specifically manufactured as dyes and/or pigments only for the tattooing of human skin.
- (2) In preparing or mixing of dyes or pigments, only nontoxic single use materials shall be used. Dyes or pigments shall be mixed and placed in sterile individual single-use containers.
- (3) After tattooing, the remaining unused dye or pigment in the single-use container(s) shall be properly discarded along with the container(s).

#### **XII. Tattoo Preparation.**

- (1) Medical grade disposable gloves shall be worn during the preparation of equipment for a tattoo procedure and during the procedure.
- (2) Only a commercially packaged single use presterilized needle assembly with bar shall be used and disposed of immediately after use into a puncture proof, auto-clavable container, or disposable biohazard container.
- (3) Sterilized instruments shall remain in sterile packages until opened in front of the client.
- (4) Any part of a tattooing machine that may be touched by the body artist during the procedure shall be covered with a disposable plastic sheath that is discarded after each procedure and the machine shall be disinfected.
- (5) A clip cord sleeve and barrier film shall be used over exposed electrical cords or other cleaning and disinfection methods demonstrated to prevent contamination.
- (6) All devices used to apply pigments must be designed and used to prevent backflow of pigments into the machine.
- (7) Single-use towels or gauze shall be used in preparing the site to be tattooed and shall be disposed of after use on each patron or client.
- (8) If shaving is necessary, single-use disposable razors shall be used.
- (9) After shaving the area to be tattooed, or if the area does not need to be shaved, the site of the tattoo shall be cleaned with soap and water, rinsed with clean water, and germicidal solution applied in a sanitary manner before each placement of design on the skin.
- (10) When a workstation rinse cup is used alone, the cup and solution shall be disposable and discarded after each client.
- (11) If squirt bottles are used to dispense liquids, the liquid shall be squirted onto a single-use wipe rather than directly onto the client.



- (12) Single use ointment tubes, applicators, and supplies shall be discarded after each tattoo application.
- (13) When a paper stencil is used by a tattoo artist for transferring the design to the skin, it shall be single use and disposable. The use of roll-on or stick deodorants for tattoo site preparation is prohibited.
- (14) The stencil shall be applied with antimicrobial soap dispensed from a container in a manner that does not contaminate the unused portion.
- (15) When the design is drawn directly onto the skin, pre-sterilized, single use non-toxic pens or markers shall be used and discarded after each use.

### **XIII. Piercing Jewelry.**

- (1) Client and body piercer should have appropriate size and quality jewelry chosen before the procedure begins. Random jewelry shall not be used for the initial piercing.
- (2) Jewelry used in piercing shall consist of a material rated by the ASTM or the ISO as being suitable for permanent surgical implant, such as stainless steel, titanium, niobium, solid platinum or a dense low porosity plastic such as Tygon or PTFE. Copies of the jewelry manufacturer's documentation, which verify compliance with standards, must be available for inspection on request. Solid 14 karat or higher, white or yellow nickel-free gold may also be used. Purity verification must be available for inspection on request.
- (3) The jewelry must be free of nicks, scratches, or irregular surfaces and must be properly sterilized prior to use.
- (4) All jewelry should be sterilized in a medical grade autoclave, stored in sterile indicator bags, sealed and dated.
- (5) Ear studs or other jewelry designed for earlobe piercing are not appropriate jewelry for other body parts and must not be used by body piercers.

### **XIV. Body Piercing Preparation:**

- (1) Medical grade disposable gloves shall be worn during the preparation of equipment for a piercing procedure and during the procedure.
- (2) Only a commercially packaged single use presterilized piercing needle shall be used and disposed of immediately after use into a puncture proof, auto-clavable container, or disposable biohazard container.
- (3) Pre-sterilize all forceps, hemostats, calipers, and tubes in sealed, properly labeled, sterile indicator bags. These items are to be used on one person, in one sitting. After one such use, they must be cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner, placed in sealed indicator bags, properly labeled, autoclaved and stored in sterile indicator bags.
- (4) Sterilized instruments shall remain in sterile packages until opened in front of the client.
- (5) Single-use towels or gauze shall be used in preparing the piercing site and shall be disposed of after use on each patron or client.

- (6) After shaving the area to be pierced, or if the area does not need to be shaved, the piercing site shall be cleaned with soap and water, rinsed with clean water, and germicidal solution applied in a sanitary manner before beginning the procedure.
- (7) In the case of oral piercings, the operator shall provide the individual with antiseptic mouthwash in a single-use cup and shall ensure that the individual utilizes the mouthwash provided. In the case of a lip, labret, or cheek piercing, procedures described in this section for both skin and oral piercings shall be followed.

#### **XV. Permanent Cosmetic Procedures and Practices.**

- (1) The permanent cosmetic/micropigmentation practitioner shall not be required to have an ultrasonic cleaner and a medical grade sterilizer if only commercially packaged, presterilized, single use needles, needle chambers, and combo couplers are used. If any instruments are reused, they must be cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner and sterilized in a medical grade autoclave.
- (2) Cosmetic micropigmentation utilizing only single-use instruments and equipment may operate in separate areas of beauty salons and similar establishments of the cosmetology industry; however, cosmetic micropigmentation procedures shall provide complete privacy for clients by means of doors, or at minimum be fully shielded by smooth non-absorbent curtains at least six (6) feet in height.
- (3) If a manual device is used, it shall be single use and disposable. The device shall be sterilized before use and discarded into a sharps container at the end of each procedure.
- (4) The use of some rotary pens (also called cosmetic machines) is permitted. Any rotary pen that uses a sponge at the opening of the chamber to stop the pigment or body fluids from getting into the machine or is designed in a manner that does not allow it to be properly cleaned and sterilized is prohibited.
- (5) Only rotary machines or other instruments that are engineered to prevent cross contamination through the use of detachable, disposable, auto-clavable components that can be autoclaved shall be used.
- (6) Fresh pigment and sterile disposable pigment containers shall be used for each client. Used pigment and pigment containers shall be discarded after each client.
- (7) All disposable items such as cotton balls, Q-tips, tissue, water cups, that have come into contact with the client, procedure table, chair or workstation shall be discarded into a closed container lined with a plastic bag and removed at the end of the procedure, if full, or end of day.
- (8) After the area has dried, apply a layer of antibacterial ointment or other approved product from a single use collapsible or plastic tube.

#### **XVI. After Body Art Application.**

- (1) The completed tattoo shall be washed with a single-use towel saturated with an antimicrobial solution.
- (2) After the area has dried, apply a layer of antibacterial ointment or other approved product from a single use collapsible or plastic tube.
- (3) A clean single use bandage or dressing shall then be applied to the tattoo using a sealed non-sticking pad or wrap.

- (4) Verbal and written instructions for the care of the body art procedure site shall be provided to each client by the operator upon completion of the procedure. The written instructions shall advise the client to consult a physician at the first sign of infection and contain the name, address and phone number of the establishment. These documents shall be signed and dated by both parties, with a copy given to the client and the operator retaining the original with all other required records.
- (5) The facility shall also post in public view the name, address and phone number of the local County Health Department and the procedure for filing a complaint. A copy of the notice for filing a complaint shall be included in the establishment application packet.

#### **XVII. Disinfection of Workplace.**

- (1) Each body art studio must be kept clean and sanitary. The owner must develop and implement a written cleaning schedule that includes appropriate methods of decontamination and tasks or procedures to be performed.
- (2) This written schedule must be based on the location within the studio, the type of surfaces to be cleaned, type of possible contamination present, the tasks or procedures to be performed, and their location within the studio.
- (3) The following procedures should be adhered to.
  - (a) Clean and sanitize all equipment and work surfaces with an appropriate EPA registered disinfectant after completion of the body art procedures and at the end of the work shift when surfaces have become contaminated since the last cleaning.
  - (b) Remove and replace protective coverings after each body art procedure.
  - (c) Inspect and decontaminate, on a daily basis, reusable receptacles such as bins, pails, and cans that have the likelihood of becoming contaminated. When contamination is visible, clean and decontaminate receptacles immediately.

#### **XVIII. Disposal of Waste.**

- (1) Needles, razors, or other sharp instruments used during body art procedures, shall be placed in puncture resistant, closed containers immediately after use.
- (2) Used needles shall not be purposely bent or broken, or otherwise manipulated by hand.
- (3) Containers of sharp waste shall be sent to a facility where they are either incinerated, rendered non-hazardous, or deposited in a landfill approved to accept biomedical waste in compliance with Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Environmental Protection Division – Solid Waste Management – Chapter 391-3-4.15.
- (4) Contaminated waste, which may release liquid blood or body fluids when compressed or may release dried blood or body fluids when handled, must be placed in an approved “red bag”, which is marked with the International Biohazard Symbol. It must then be disposed of in compliance with Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Environmental Protection Division – Solid Waste Management – Chapter 391-3-4.15.
- (5) Waste containers shall be kept closed when not in use.
- (6) Disposable waste shall be handled, stored, and disposed of to minimize direct exposure of personnel to waste materials.

- (7) At least one covered waste receptacle shall be provided in each operator area and each toilet room. Receptacles in the operator area shall be emptied daily and solid waste shall be removed from the premises at least weekly or more often if necessary. All refuse containers shall be covered and maintained.
- (8) Solid waste shall not be stored outdoors unless in a secured and lidded dumpster, or comply with County/City Solid Waste Ordinances.

## **XIX. Personnel**

- (1) Persons performing body art shall obtain current certification in Red Cross Basic First Aid/CPR or equivalent and proof of successful completion of an OSHA approved Bloodborne Pathogen/Universal Precautions training program, given or approved by the Health Department. Training/courses provided by professional body art organizations /associations or by equipment manufacturers may also be submitted for consideration.
- (2) If the artist is currently in business at the time of application for permit or on the effective date of these rules, the above certification must be obtained within 120 days from the date the permit is issued.
- (3) The body art establishment operator shall require every person who may have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material to complete the Hepatitis B vaccination series, subject to the exception in (4) below.
- (4) Proof shall be provided upon request that all body artists have either completed or were offered and declined in writing, the Hepatitis B vaccination series; that antibody testing has revealed that the employee is immune to Hepatitis B; or that the vaccine is contraindicated for medical reasons. Contraindication requires a dated and signed physician's statement specifying the name of the employee and that the vaccine cannot be given. Personnel who decline to accept the Hepatitis B vaccination series must sign a form indicating their refusal.
- (5) The owner or governing body must maintain a file on all employees who perform body art procedures. Employee files must be kept on location for a minimum of two years even if the employee is terminated. The employee files must be available for inspection and include the following:
  - (a) Report of Hepatitis B Vaccination, Hepatitis B antibody testing, contraindication to Hepatitis B vaccine, or signed Hepatitis B Vaccine declination letter.
  - (b) Evidence of Red Cross Basic First Aid/CPR certification or equivalent and completion of an OSHA approved Bloodborne Pathogen/Universal Precautions training program.
  - (c) A copy of a Photo I.D.

## **XX. Client Files.**

- (1) For each client, proper records of identification, body art administered, informed consent, and care instructions shall be kept and retained for a minimum of two (2) years at the studio.
- (2) Records of each client shall be prepared prior to the body art procedure being performed and shall reflect the client's name and signature, address, proof of age, date procedure performed, design, its location and name of the artist.
- (3) A statement of informed consent by the individual receiving the body art must be maintained on file.
- (4) A statement by the client attesting that he/she is not under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs shall be on file.

- (5) A copy of procedures signed by the client advising them of proper subsequent care of the body art shall be maintained on file.
- (6) A copy of instructions signed by the client informing them of the risks involved and possible complications that might result from the body art procedure must be maintained on file.

**XXI. Operator / Artist License.**

- (1) No person shall practice body art procedures without first obtaining an operator/artist license from the County Health Department.
- (2) An applicant for a body art license must be a minimum of 18 years of age and shall demonstrate to the department his/her successful compliance with all training, disclosure, consent and educational requirements of this Body Art Regulation prior to the issuance or renewal of a body art license by the department.
- (3) The Department may refuse to issue an operator/artist license to any person convicted of:
  - (a) a felony in any jurisdiction; or
  - (b) a non-felonious crime of moral turpitude.A conviction, for purposes of this paragraph shall include a guilty plea or a plea of *nolo contendere*.
- (4) Application for the operator/artist license shall include:
  - (a) Name
  - (b) Date of Birth
  - (c) Sex
  - (d) Residence address
  - (e) Mailing address
  - (f) Phone number
  - (g) Place(s) of employment as an operator/artist
  - (h) Photo I.D.
  - (i) Proof of successful completion of an OSHA approved Bloodborne Pathogen/ Universal Precautions training program and Basic First Aid/CPR class given or approved by the department.
  - (j) Release of other authorization allowing the Department to conduct a criminal background check.
- (5) No license will be issued without successfully completing an OSHA approved course in Bloodborne Pathogens/Universal Precautions and Basic First Aid/CPR.
- (6) Individuals seeking body art license shall submit a completed application provided by the department, pay a set fee determined by the department, and provide proof of completion of departmental required courses.
- (7) Acting within scope of license: A body artist shall only perform those form(s) of body art that is/are indicated in the body art license application submitted to the department to receive the license.
- (8) The operator/artist license shall be valid from the date of issuance and shall automatically expire annually and must be renewed unless revoked sooner by the department.
- (9) In order for a body artist license to be renewed a departmental approved continued education class must be attended and a set renewal fee must be paid to the department. Body artist must attend a department approved continued educational class on Bloodborne Pathogens/Universal Precautions every 2 years.
- (10) For body artist from other states/districts proof must be provided of experience, previous licensing, Bloodborne Pathogen/Universal Precautions training, and Basic First Aid/CPR.

(11) All operator/artist licenses shall be posted in a prominent and conspicuous area where they may be readily observed by clients.

(12) Temporary/Guest Body Artist License

(a) The department may issue a temporary (3 days) or guest (30 day) body art license to an individual holding a license or similar certificate or registration to engage in the practice of body art issued under the jurisdiction of another city, county, or state of the United States. Such temporary/guest body art license will allow a person to practice body art under the direct supervision of a body artist holding a valid body art license issued by the department. The issuance of a temporary/guest body art license is conditioned upon the applicant demonstrating the following:

(1) The applicant has received training equivalent to the minimum training requirement set by this Body Art Regulation;

(2) The applicant shall provide a letter of consent signed by a department licensed body artist, a copy of the body art license, a copy of the body art facility permit where the applicant will practice any body art practices;

(3) A set application fee paid to the department.

(b) No visiting body artist shall practice body art without a temporary/guest body art license issued by the department.

(c) Any body artist licensed by the department requesting to have a visiting body artist perform under his/her supervision shall:

(1) Notify the department in writing ten (10) days in advance of the proposed effective date of the requested temporary/guest body art license;

(2) Require that the visiting body artist obtain a temporary/guest body art license from the department.

**XXII. Application for Permit.**

(1) The administrative body of each body art studio shall submit to the local County Health Department an application for a permit to operate under the rules and regulations. No studio shall be operated and no body art performed without such permit, which is current under these rules and regulations.

(2) The application for permit shall be made on forms provided by the County Health Department.

(3) Each application for a permit shall be accompanied by an 8 ½" x 11" or larger page containing a detailed floor drawing to scale of the body art studio. Such drawing shall show the accurate placement of each of the following: windows, doors, room measurements, chairs, tables, sinks, bathrooms, waiting area, and equipment placement for clients and/or staff.

(4) A listing of the names of all staff including the owner who will be working in the studio shall be included with the application for a permit. This listing shall include the full name of each staff person.

(5) The ownership of the studio shall be fully disclosed in its application for a permit.

(6) Zoning and other local requirements regarding proper location and establishment of body art studios shall be addressed by the applicant with the responsible local officials.

(7) Existing Establishments and personnel

(a) Body art establishments and artist in operation at the date of adoption of the rules and regulations shall make application for a permit within (30) days.

(b) The department may approve up to a (12 month) period from the date of application for compliance of physical facilities of existing establishments; provided however that no exemptions will be granted for circumstances presenting an immediate threat to public health such as lack of potable

water, toilet facilities, waste disposal, adequate lighting, adequate sinks and lavatories, and universal precautions.

(c) Body artist operating at the date of adoption of these rules must be certified in Bloodborne Pathogens/Universal Precautions and Basic First Aid/CPR certification within (6 months) of adoption date.

(8) Temporary Body Art Facilities

(a) A Temporary facility permit and/or license may be issued for Body Art services provided outside of the physical site of a facility registered with the department for the purpose of product demonstration or in connection with Body Art conventions or industry trade shows.

(b) A Temporary Body Art Establishment permit may be obtained by the operator of a body art establishment after submitting an application for a temporary facility. Such application must contain the location, the operating days, hours of operation of the temporary facility, and the plans/description of the temporary facility.

(c) Temporary facility permits will not be issued unless:

1. The applicant is a minimum of 18 years of age and demonstrates to the department his/her successful compliance with all training, disclosure, consent and educational requirements of this Body Art Regulation.

2. Application for a permit and/or license for the practitioner and/or temporary facility has been submitted for review by the department, at least 30 days prior to the event.

3. The applicant has paid all required fees set by the department.

(d) If the applicant is currently registered with the department, then only a temporary facility permit is required.

(e) The following criteria pertain to temporary facilities permitting and licensing:

1. Demonstration of compliance with rules and regulations set forth herein.

2. No permit and/or license for a temporary body art establishment may be issued for more than seven (7) consecutive days.

3. An applicant for a Temporary Body Art Establishment permit and/or license shall not receive more than two consecutive seven (7) day permits and/or license during a 30-day period.

4. Temporary facility permits and/or license shall not be transferable from one place to another or from one person to another.

5. Temporary facility permits and/or license shall be posted in a prominent and conspicuous place so clients can readily observe it.

(9) Variance Procedures

(a) The department may grant a variance either upon its own motion or upon request of the applicant from the provisions of any rule or regulation in a specific case if it finds that a literal enforcement of such provision will result in unnecessary hardship to the applicant and that such a variance will not be contrary to the public interest, public health and/or health and safety of clients.

(b) A request for a variance shall be filed by an applicant in writing, setting forth in detail the basis upon which the request is made.

(c) Within thirty (30) days of filing for a request for a variance, the department shall notify the applicant by certified mail of its approval or in the case of a denial, a hearing date, time and place may be scheduled if the facility appeals the denial and in accordance with Georgia Standard Hearing Procedures.

**XXIII. Establishment Permit.**

(1) Any person planning to operate a body art establishment shall obtain a written application for a permit on a form provided by the local health officer through the local county health department prior to operating a body art establishment.

(2) A new or initial application is required for body art establishments that have not previously been permitted or for instances when ownership changes. To be eligible for a permit the studio must be in compliance with these rules and regulations.

- (3) The local health department shall issue a body art establishment permit:
  - (a) After an inspection of the proposed facility reveals that the facility is in compliance with requirements of these rules, and
  - (b) Upon receiving a completed application with applicable fees.
- (4) The permit shall be displayed in a conspicuous place on the premises.
- (5) Permits must be renewed yearly and are not transferable from one studio to another.
- (6) Training/Experience Requirements:
  - (a) Any person wanting to open a body art establishment must provide proof of current licensing, if applicable, Bloodborne Pathogen/Universal Precautions training and Basic First Aid/CPR.
  - (b) Reciprocity : For body artist from other states/districts wanting to open a body art establishment or temporary body art establishment, proof of previous licensing, Bloodborne Pathogen/Universal Precautions training, and Basic First Aid/CPR.
    - (1) Proof of business may be a copy of a business license, tax records, copy of another state's tattoo artist license, or other similar city, county, state, or federal documents which show the prospective applicant as having been in business or operating for 18 months elsewhere. The local health officer (environmental health) shall have final approval on other forms of documentation submitted as evidence or proof.
- (7) A permit shall no longer be valid and shall be returned to the county when the studio ceases to operate, has moved to another location, the ownership changes, or the permit is suspended or revoked.
- (8) A studio, which fails to comply with these rules and regulations, shall be subject to the sanctions available to the County Health Department pursuant to O.C.G.A. 31-5 including but not limited to denial or revocation of its permit by the County/ Department.

**XXIV. Inspections.**

- (1) The studio and its records shall be available for review and examination by properly identified representatives of the County/Department.
- (2) A copy of the inspection report shall be displayed in a conspicuous place on the premises and also shall be available for public inspection at the appropriate county offices wherein the studio is located.
- (3) All body art establishments shall be subject to inspection at reasonable hours no less than twice annually and as often as is deemed necessary by the department to insure adequate compliance with the provisions of these rules.
- (4) Department Environmental Health Inspectors shall complete an OSHA approved Bloodborne Pathogens/Universal Precautions, Basic First Aid/CPR, and cross contamination.
- (5) Inspection results - Reporting and Scoring
  - (a) Inspection results for body art establishments shall be recorded on standard departmental forms.
  - (b) The scoring system shall include a weighted point value for each requirement in which critical items are assigned values of five (5) points, with minor violations having assigned values of either one (1) or two (2) points.
  - (c) The rating score of the facilities shall be the total of the weighted point values for all violations subtracted from one hundred (100).
- (6) Violation Correction



- (a) Correction of critical and minor violations shall be within five (5) and ten (10) calendar days, respectively.
- (b) Upon declaration of an imminent health hazard which can not be immediately corrected, the local health officer shall issue an order requiring the facility to immediately cease operations until authorized to reopen.
- (c) In the case of temporary body art facilities, all critical violations shall be corrected within twenty-four (24) hours. If critical violations are not corrected within twenty-four (24) hours, the establishment shall immediately cease operations until authorized to resume by the local health officer or his duly authorized representative. Upon declaration of an imminent health hazard which can not be immediately corrected, the health officer shall issue an order requiring the facility to immediately cease operations until authorized to reopen.
- (d) Follow up inspections when required will be performed within a 45 day period.

## **XXV. Enforcement and Penalties**

- (1) Enforcement of these Rules and Regulations shall be in accordance with O.C.G.A. 31-5, Article 1. The department shall have the power and authority to suspend or revoke permits for failure to comply with the provisions of this Chapter.
- (2) Each county board of health shall have primary responsibility for the enforcement of these Rules and Regulations within its jurisdiction and may include adoption as code by the governing bodies of counties and municipalities for the purpose of enforcement.
- (3) The County/Department is empowered to institute appropriate proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of enjoining violation of any applicable provision of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, or of the Rules and Regulations.
- (4) No body art studio shall operate without a permit. Failure or refusal to file an application for a permit shall constitute a violation of Chapter 40 of Title 31 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. Any person who operates without a permit or performs body art without a license is subject to the penalties provided in Chapter 40 of Title 31 as well as an order to cease and desist operating a body art studio and to an injunction or other penalties from a court of jurisdiction.
- (5) When an application for a permit is denied or the permit previously granted is to be suspended or revoked, the applicant or holder thereof shall be afforded notice and hearing as provided in O.C.G.A. 31-5, Article 1.
- (6) If an application is denied or a permit is suspended or revoked, the applicant or holder of the permit must be notified in writing, specifically stating any and all reasons why the action was taken.
- (7) The purpose of these procedures is to state the minimum actions to be taken to fulfill the obligation of the department in assuring compliance with the regulations when the continued operation of a body art establishment presents a substantial and imminent health hazard to the public or when a body art establishment is in flagrant or continuing violation of this Chapter.
- (8) Suspension is effective upon service of a written notice thereof, and body art procedures must cease immediately.
- (9) The notice must state the basis for the suspension and advise the permit holder of the right to a preliminary hearing on request within 72 business hours of the department.
- (10) If requested, the preliminary hearing will be held by an experienced supervisory level employee of the department not directly involved in the suspension.

- (11) The rules of evidence will not apply, but both the department and the permit holder may present witnesses, records and argument.
- (12) The hearing official will be authorized immediately to rescind or modify the suspension or to continue the suspension with or without conditions.
- (13) If the suspension is not rescinded, the permit holder will have the right on request to an evidentiary hearing. If a hearing is not requested, upon correction of all violations, the owner may request an inspection to reinstate the permit.
- (14) Notice of Hearing. For the purpose of this Chapter a notice of hearing is properly served when delivered in person or by registered or certified mail.
- (15) Conditions Warranting Action. The department may summarily suspend a permit to operate a body art establishment if it determines through inspection, or examination of employees, records, or other means as specified in this Chapter, that an imminent health hazard exists.
- (16) Resumption of Operations. If operations of a body art establishment are discontinued due to the existence of an imminent health hazard or otherwise according to law, the permit holder shall obtain approval from the department before resuming operations.

#### **XXVI. Severability.**

If any provision or subpart thereof contained in this Body Art Regulation is found to be invalid unconstitutional, or in conflict with O.C.G.A. or a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of all remaining provisions or subpart thereof shall not be so affected but shall remain in full force and effect.

#### **Appendix I**

Universal Precautions means a set of guidelines and controls, published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as "Guidelines for Prevention of Transmission of Human Immune-deficiency Virus (HIV) and Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) to Health-Care and Public-Safety Workers" in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report) (MMWR), June 23, 1989, Vol.38 No. S-6, and as "Recommendations for Preventing Transmission of Human Immune Deficiency Virus and Hepatitis B Virus to Patients During Exposure-Prone Invasive Procedures" in MMWR, July 12, 1991, Vol.40, No. RR-8. This method of infection control requires the employer and the employee to assume that all human blood and specified human body fluids are infectious for HIV, HBV, HCV, and other blood pathogens. Precautions include hand washing; gloving; personal protective equipment; injury prevention; and proper handling and disposal of needles, other sharp instruments, and blood and body fluid-contaminated products.

#### **References:**

Rules of the Georgia Department of Human Resources, Public Health, Chapter 290-31-40, Tattoo Studios and Artists, circa 1999.

Ordinance of the Dekalb County, Georgia Board of Health to Regulate the Body Craft Industry, 2005

Rules of Tennessee Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services, Chapter 1200-23-6, Body Piercing, circa 2002

Rules of Tennessee Department of Health, Bureau of Health Services, Chapter 1200-23-3, Tattoo Artist and Tattoo Establishment, circa 2000

Jewelry Standards, The Association of Professional Piercers ([www.safepiercing.org/standards](http://www.safepiercing.org/standards)), April 20, 2007

Boston Public Health Commission, Body Art Regulations, circa 2001

Texas Department of State Health Services, Licensing of Tattoo and Certain Body Piercing Studios, 25 Texas Administrative Code, § 229.401-229.413, circa 2005

Department of Environmental Health Solid Waste/Medical Waste Program, Santa Clara, CA; Body Art & Lower Ear Piercing, January 15, 2008

**Effective Date**

Public Hearing was held on \_\_\_\_\_.

Adopted by the County Board of Health on \_\_\_\_\_.

Notice of adoption published in Augusta Chronicle on \_\_\_\_\_.

These Rules and Regulations shall become effective on \_\_\_\_\_.