

Body Art is defined as the practice of physical body adornment by permitted establishments and operators utilizing, but not limited to, the following techniques: body piercing, tattooing, cosmetic tattooing, branding and scarification, and the placement of pigments, trimming, or filing of the nails.

The regulations enforced by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health describe **body piercing** as the process of penetrating the skin or mucous membrane for the purpose of insertion of any object, including but not limited to jewelry for cosmetic purposes. This term also includes the intentional production of scars upon the body. **Tattooing** is described as the process by which the skin is marked or colored by insertion of nontoxic dyes or pigments into or under the subcutaneous portion of the skin so as to form indelible marks for cosmetic, medical or figurative purposes. Any establishment conducting any form of body piercing and/or tattooing is inspected by the PDPH.

Each establishment is required to have a valid **Body Art Establishment Certificate** from the Department, which is to be renewed annually. To obtain a certificate, an inspection of the facilities must be completed by the Department to ensure compliance with the regulations. The establishment certificate must, then, be posted in a prominent and conspicuous area where it may be readily observed by patrons.

Each **body artist** (any person who actually performs the work of body piercing and/or tattooing) operating within the City of Philadelphia must first obtain a Body Artist Certificate from the Department. Body Artist Certificates expire three years from the date of issuance (unless revoked sooner by the Department) and can only be issued if the artist meets the following requirements:

- (a) the applicant provides proof of having previously held such a certificate,
- OR** (b) the applicant provides proof of having served an apprenticeship in tattooing under an operator's certificate pursuant to this Section for a period of at least three (3) years, or apprenticeship in body piercing under an operator's certificate pursuant to this Section for a period of at least eighteen (18) months,
- OR** (c) the applicant provides proof of having practiced the art of tattooing or body piercing as a full-time occupation prior to the date of the passage of these regulations (2002);
- AND** (d) the applicant provides proof of having attended a bloodborne pathogens training program given or approved by the Department within the past three (3) years.

If an applicant does not meet the abovementioned requirements, an **Apprentice Certificate** may be issued. Any person certified as a tattoo/body piercing operator pursuant to this Section may apply to the Department for one or more apprentice certificates which, upon issuance, will allow the apprentice named thereon to practice tattooing in the establishment of and under the direct supervision of the certified operator named thereon, for a period of three (3) years or practice body piercing in the establishment of and under the direct supervision of the certified operator named thereon, for a period of eighteen (18) months. Again, each Body Artist and Apprentice Certificate must be prominently displayed.