

**Board of Health  
166 Boulder Drive , Fitchburg, MA 01420  
(978) 978-1870**

**GUIDELINES FOR PIERCING/ BODY ART PRACTITIONER PERMIT**

- (A) No person shall practice body art or perform any body art procedure without first obtaining a practitioner permit from the Board. The fee for the permit shall be \$200.
- (B) A practitioner shall be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age.
- (C) A practitioner permit shall be valid from the date of issuance and shall automatically expire in one (1) year from the date of issuance unless revoked sooner by the Board.
- (D) Application for a practitioner permit shall include:
  - (1) name
  - (2) date of birth
  - (3) residence – street address
  - (4) mailing address
  - (5) phone number
  - (6) place(s) of employment as a practitioner
  - (7) Training and/or experience as set out in (E) below.
- (E) Practitioner training and experience
  - (1) In reviewing an application for a practitioner permit, the Board may consider experience, training, and/or certification acquired in other states that regulate body art.
  - (2) Training for all practitioners shall be approved by the Board and, at a minimum, shall include the following:
    - (a) blood borne pathogen training program (or equivalent) which includes infectious disease control, waste disposal, hand-washing techniques, sterilization equipment operation and methods, and sanitization, disinfection and sterilization methods and techniques.
    - (b) First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

Examples of courses approved by the Board include “Preventing Disease Transmission” (American Red Cross) and “Blood borne Pathogen Training” (U.S. OSHA). Training courses provided by professional body art organizations or associations or by equipment manufacturers may also be submitted to the Board for approval.

- (3) The applicant for a body piercing practitioner permit shall provide documentation, acceptable to the Board, that he/she complete an Anatomy and Physiology course with a grade of C or better at a college accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, or comparable accrediting entity. This course must include instruction on the Integumentary System (skin)
- (4) The applicant for a tattoo practitioner permit shall provide documentation, acceptable to the Board, that he/she completed a course on Anatomy and Physiology,

with a grade of C or better at a college accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, or comparable accrediting entity. This course must include instruction on the system of the integumentary system (skin).

- (5) The applicant for all practitioners shall submit evidence satisfactory to the Board of at least two years actual experience in the practice of performing body art activities of the kind for which the applicant seeks a body art practitioner permit to perform, whether such experience was obtained within or outside of the Commonwealth
- (6) A Hepatitis B Vaccination is highly recommended. An applicant for a Body Art Practitioner License shall provide to the Board, and shall provide to the owner of any Body Art Establishment in which the applicant intends to perform or in which he does perform Body Art activity, valid documentation of his Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) vaccination status stating:
  - (a) Certification of completed vaccination
  - (b) Documentation stating the vaccine is contraindicated for medical reasons. Contraindication requires a dated and signed licensed health care professional's statement specifying the name of the Body Art Practitioner License applicant employee and that the vaccine cannot be given, or,
  - (c) Certificate of vaccination declination of HBV.

(F) A practitioner's permit shall be conditioned upon continued compliance with all applicable provisions of these regulations.

(G) The Board of Health has thirty (30) days to review all applications.