



Motorcycle Week June 12-21, 2026 Laconia New Hampshire

Body Art – Tattoo Regulations

1. Each practitioner shall maintain full compliance with RSA 314-A and He-P 1101.
2. Each practitioner shall only perform body art in a facility approved for use as a body art establishment by the health officer, verifying that:
 - a. The facilities wastewater system is operating
 - b. The facilities water system is operating: and
 - c. The facilities complies with all local health ordinances
3. The practitioner shall only perform branding and tattooing on individuals 18 years of age or older pursuant RSA 314-A:8.
4. The practitioner shall perform body piercing of individuals under the age of 18 in accordance with RSA 314-A:8 and He-P 1101 by:
 - a. Obtaining written consent for the piercing from the minor's parental or legal guardian;
 - b. Verifying evidence of the parental or legal guardian's relationship with minor;
 - c. Preparing documentation noting the physical location of the piercing on the minor's body;
 - d. Ensuring the minor's parent or legal guardian is physically present at all times during the procedure; and
 - e. Maintaining the documentation required above for a minimum of 7 years, to include no less than one year past the individual's 18th birthday.
5. The practitioner shall disclose to every body art client the health risks and potential adverse affects of the procedure prior to beginning every procedure.
6. The practitioner shall provide written and verbal aftercare instructions to every body art client, to include at a minimum:
 - a. Bandaging instructions;
 - b. Skin care instructions;
 - c. Appropriate wear of clothing;
 - d. Acceptable exposure to ultra-violet light;
 - e. Acceptable types of exposure to chlorinated and salt water;
 - f. Appropriate use of skin care products; and
 - g. Written guidelines regarding when to seek medical treatment if necessary
7. The practitioner shall not accept as a client any individual who appears to be under the influence of intoxicating beverages or chemical substances.
8. The practitioner shall not allow any intoxicating beverages or chemical substances to be consumed in an establishment where body art is being performed including by the practitioner, apprentice and client.

Standards of Hygiene

1. The practitioner shall use the following infection control practices:
 - a. Proper hand washing techniques;
 - b. Proper coverage of open wounds on the practitioner at all times by an impermeable, tight fitting bandage;
 - c. Universal precautions, as specified by the United States Centers for Disease Control Guidelines for Isolation Precautions in Hospitals (1993);
 - d. The proper handling of infectious waste as required by 29 C.F.R. § 1910.1030(d)(4)(iii). This includes:
 - Liquid or semi-liquid blood;
 - Items contaminated with blood, which would release these substances in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed;
 - Items that are caked with dried blood and are capable of releasing these materials during handling;
 - Pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood.

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- e. The use of an autoclave for sterilizing all instruments, to be utilized under steam pressure for a minimum of 30 minutes at 15 pounds of pressure (PSI) at a temperature of 250 degrees Fahrenheit and results in the destruction of all forms of microbial life, including highly resistant spores.
 - f. The storage of all instruments in sterile packets;
 - g. The spore testing of all autoclaves at a minimum of once each month and the maintenance of test records for a minimum of 7 years;
 - h. The use of new, single use needles for the piercing of each individual;
 - i. The use of single use needles for the tattooing of each individual;
 - j. The use of piercing guns only for the piercing of ear lobes;
 - k. The storage of all clean and ready-to-use needles and instruments in sterile packets and in a rigid case or storage cabinet while not in use;
 - l. The proper disposal of used needles in a sharps container that is puncture-resistant, leak-proof, can be closed for handling, storage, transportation and disposal and is labeled with the international biohazard symbol;
 - m. The prohibition of eating, drinking, the use of tobacco of any form, and the application of cosmetics by any individual present in the room while body art is performed;
 - n. The area of skin to be tattooed, pierced, or branded first be thoroughly washed for a period of at least 2 minutes with a new single use sponge, gauze or paper towel and warm water to which has been added an antiseptic soap;
 - o. The application of all ointments, creams, or jellies with a sterile gauze or single use sterile tongue depressor;
 - p. A prohibition of the use of styptic pencils, alum blocks or other solid or liquid styptics to check the flow of blood; and
 - q. The thorough cleaning and sanitizing of service areas and related equipment between each client.
2. The practitioner shall practice in a clean and sanitary manner including only practicing in an establishment that has:
- a. An adequate supply of potable water;
 - b. Adequate lighting;
 - c. Floors, walls, service tables and chairs that are easily cleanable and smooth; and
 - d. A toilet, a sink with hot and cold water, antibacterial soap and single-use disposable towels located in the establishment and accessible to the practitioner, apprentice and client at all times.
3. Any ornamental jewelry inserted into a newly pierced area shall be:
- a. Made of surgical stainless steel, solid 14k or 18k nickel free, white or yellow gold, niobium, titanium, or platinum; or a dense, low-porosity plastic;
 - b. Free of nicks, scratches, or irregular surfaces; and
 - c. Properly sterilized prior to use.

For More Information or Questions:

NH Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (603) 271-2152
City of Laconia, Health Officer 603-527-1293