IOWA TATTOO REGULATIONS

According to Iowa law, all tattoo artists, permanent makeup artists, establishments, mobile units, and temporary establishments operating in Iowa are required to be permitted by the Iowa Department of Public Health Division of Environmental Health Tattoo Program.

Artists or establishment owners who fail to meet the requirements of Iowa Code section 135.37 or 641 Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 22 shall be guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Minors cannot be tattooed in the state of Iowa by a permitted artist or in a permitted establishment regardless of parental consent.

At this time, the State of Iowa does not regulate body piercing. All regulation of body piercing is done at the local level.

Iowa Department of Public Health
Tattoo Program

Iowa Department of Public Health
321 E. 12th Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Phone: 515-281-7726

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/eh/tattoo.asp

THINKING ABOUT GETTING A TATTOO?

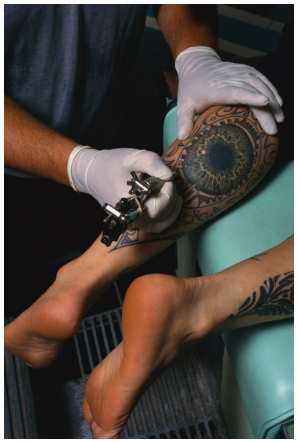
WHAT TO LOOK FOR

From the artist

- A current and posted permit from the Iowa Department of Public Health
- Professional behavior
- Clean clothes
- Frequent hand washing before and after tattoo procedure
- Gloves worn at all times during procedure
- Cleans the skin before beginning the tattoo.
- Blood-borne pathogen certification
- Must be at least 18 years old

From the establishment

- Most recent inspection report posted
- Current establishment permit posted
- Establishment is kept clean and orderly
- Specific procedures for setup and teardown are followed before and after every tattoo



From the Equipment

- Any equipment touching the skin is sterile and/or covered
- All equipment is in proper, working order
- Reused equipment is sterilized between each use
- Needles are used only one time and are disposed of in a hazardous waste sharps bin