



## County of Sacramento

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## **Governor Signs Safe Body Art Legislation**

### **Sacramento County will work with industry on implementation of AB 300**

Sacramento, CA - On Sunday, October 9th, Governor Brown signed AB 300, a law that requires health and safety standards for all tattoo, permanent cosmetics, and body piercing shops in California. Beginning July 1, 2012, tattoo shops and their artists, body piercers, and permanent cosmetic practitioners must meet basic health and sanitation standards to ensure their clients are properly protected.

The number of young people getting tattoos and body piercings has doubled in the last 15 years and infections are well documented, including bloodborne virus infections such as Hepatitis B and C. "The risk of infection is minimal when tattooing and body piercing activities are carried out by competent practitioners working under proper sanitary conditions," said Val Siebal, Director of the Department of Environmental Management.

There are nearly 175 tattoo, body piercing, and permanent cosmetic businesses in Sacramento County. Body art facilities will be required to obtain an annual permit and receive an annual inspection by EMD staff. Practitioners or individuals that perform body art (including permanent cosmetics) and ear piercing facilities will be required to register annually with EMD.

EMD formed a Body Art Industry Work Group in early 2010 to obtain industry input regarding safe body legislation and discuss implementation of upcoming state or local requirements. This group will now plan implementation of the new law in Sacramento County including outreach methods, training, and the development of inspection guidelines for both the industry and EMD. This group will hold a meeting at EMD's office in November.

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