

News Release

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New Health Requirements for Body Artists

Safe Body Art Act went into effect July 1

Sacramento, CA – The start of July means more than 175 tattoo artists, body piercers and permanent cosmetic practitioners in Sacramento County must now meet new health and safety requirements to prevent infection and disease. Assembly Bill 300, also known as the Safe Body Art Act, was signed into law by Governor Brown in October 2011 and became effective on July 1.

The new law requires body artists to be trained in bloodborne pathogens, comply with minimum sanitation standards, receive vaccination against hepatitis B, and have a valid health permit/registration. In Sacramento County, body art facilities will be inspected annually by Environmental Health Specialists of the Environmental Management Department (EMD).

“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,” said EMD director Val Siebal. “The risk of infection is minimal when tattooing and body piercing activities are carried out by competent practitioners working under proper sanitary conditions.”

Before the Safe Body Art Act, regulations varied from county to county. In Sacramento County, body art facilities were required only to register with EMD. In early 2010, EMD formed a Body Art Industry Work Group to obtain industry input regarding proposed safe body art legislation. A state working group was also formed and identified outreach and training needs to educate body art practitioners about the new law. In February 2012, Sacramento County EMD hosted a training workshop for practitioners.

“This new law was the deciding factor when I considered opening a shop of my own because I knew it would create such a higher standard that both our artists and our clients deserve,” said Amber Barajas, owner of Queen of Arts Tattoo & Piercing Studio on Howe Avenue in Sacramento.

Body art businesses and practitioners in Sacramento County will pay an annual fee. The health permit or practitioner registration may be suspended or revoked for severe and/or repeated violations of applicable laws. Performing body art without registration may result in a penalty of \$25 - \$1000.

For more information about the Safe Body Art Act, call (916) 875-8440 or visit EMD online at www.emd.saccounty.net/EnvHealth/EHOther/BodyArt.html.

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