

BODY ARTIST PERMIT VARIANCE GUIDE

CRITERIA FOR OBTAINING A VARIANCE FROM CODE REQUIREMENT TO TAKE A NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE ACCREDITED COURSE IN ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY FOR TATTOOING ONLY

- I. Only one variance may be granted for each fully licensed body art establishment at a time.
- II. If applicant has no tattoo experience, he/she should be trained for 18 months.
 - A. Trainee shall acquire the following before applying to the Board of Health for a variance from the Anatomy and Physiology Course:
 1. Start series of Hepatitis B shots. (Three shots are required to be completed within a six (6) month period.)
 2. CPR Class (to be done in person)
 3. Blood-borne Pathogens course (can be taken on-line)
 4. Tattoo Artist Skin Course (Quincy Board of Health's Skin Course)
 - B. For the first six (6) months of training, the trainee shall:
 1. Draw, color and shade tattoo stencils. Learn how to make stencils.
 2. Practice lettering.
 3. Observe other licensed artists in the following manner:
 - a. Set up of machines, needles and inks.
 - b. Break down of machines, needles and inks.
 - c. Proper techniques of needle depth and speed for shading, coloring and outlining a tattoo.
 - d. Proper disposal of contaminated gloves, needles, tubes, inks and work surfaces.
 - e. Proper training for the prevention of cross-contamination of all the above.
 - f. Proper instruction of aftercare of tattoo with client.

During this time, trainee shall observe and ask questions. After six (6) months, the trainee's skills shall be reviewed by the owner.

If the owner feels confident, then the trainee will begin the tattoo process.

- C. For the first three (3) months of the tattoo process:
 1. The trainee will tattoo only customers selected by owner who agree to have a tattoo from a trainee.
 2. These customers will be told, in advance, that they are being tattooed by a trainee and will sign a waiver.
 3. No tattoo shall be done without a licensed artist observing.

D. After the first three (3) months of tattooing (item C above):

1. The trainee will, again, be reviewed.
2. If tattoo work is acceptable, the trainee shall be allowed to tattoo regular clientele provided:
 - a) The clientele knows up front that they are being tattooed by a trainee.
 - b) All tattoos done by a trainee are to be checked by owner/licensed artist.
 - c) The trainee should perform a minimum of one tattoo/week for a minimum of one year; or a minimum of 50 tattoos during a one-year period.
 - d) A licensed body artist shall be on premises at all times the trainee is tattooing.

III. Criteria for Reduction in Training Period:

If applicant has tattoo experience, he/she may be trained for a shorter period of time but with a minimum of one year. The time frame will depend upon the artist's skill level and tattoo portfolio*

*The Board of Health may request to see a tattoo done physically in front of a Board of Health member, or someone they have appointed, to ensure that the portfolio presented by the trainee actually belongs to said trainee (and they haven't simply printed one out from the internet, etc.) The tattoo should reflect the artist's skill level.

1. A minimum of one year should be standard for an experienced but unlicensed tattoo artist. The tattoo shop owner must check artist's understanding of:
 - a) cross-contamination,
 - b) blood borne pathogens, and
 - c) related tattoo skills.
 - d) A licensed body artist shall be on premises at all times trainee is tattooing.
2. A tattoo experienced applicant may start at the 3-month or the 6-month training level depending on skill level.
 - a) the trainee should perform a minimum of one tattoo/week for a minimum of one year.

IV. Cosmetic Tattoos:

It is understood that an applicant for cosmetic tattoos may not have the opportunity to complete one cosmetic (fixing scars, etc.,) tattoo a week as the demand appears less at this time. The Board will review each cosmetic tattoo trainee applicant individually.