Q: Can an infant still have their ears pierced?
A: Yes, with parental consent.

Q: Do jewelry stores need to have licensed piercing technicians to pierce ears?
A: No. Body piercing does not include the piercing of the outer perimeter or the lobe of the ear using a presterilized single-use stud-and-clasp ear-piercing system.

Q: What about permanent makeup?
A: Permanent makeup is a form of tattooing, and is subject to the body art regulation. Permanent makeup must be performed by a MDH-licensed body art technician in a licensed body art establishment.

Q: What problems should MDH be contacted about?
A: Health and safety concerns such as: infections, unsanitary practices, unsanitary premises, tattooing of a minor, and piercing of a minor without parental consent. MDH should be notified of unlicensed practice.

Q: How do I know if a technician and/or establishment is licensed?
A: Look for posted technician and establishment licenses; call MDH at 651-201-3731; and/or visit our website www.health.state.mn.us and enter “body art” in the search box, where a list of licensed technicians and establishments will be posted.

Q: Are temporary events legal, and can visiting technicians practice legally?
A: If licensed by MDH, temporary events and/or visiting guest technicians are legal. Look for posted licenses.
The Minnesota Legislature passed a law during the 2010 session requiring the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to regulate tattoo and piercing professionals.

This brochure provides helpful information for body art technicians, establishments and consumers. You can find the law (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 146B) at https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=146B&view=chapter

Q: What is body art?
A: Body art means physical body adornment using, but not limited to, tattooing and body piercing. Body art does not include practices and procedures that are performed by a licensed medical or dental professional if the procedure is within the professional’s scope of practice.

Q: What is tattooing?
A: Tattooing means any method of placing indelible ink or other pigments into or under the skin or mucosa with needles or any other instruments used to puncture the skin, resulting in permanent coloration of the skin or mucosa. Tattooing also includes micropigmentation and cosmetic tattooing.

Q: What is body piercing?
A: Body piercing means the penetration or puncturing of the skin by any method for the purpose of inserting jewelry or other objects in or through the body. Body piercing also includes branding, scarification, suspension, subdermal implantation, microdermal, and tongue bifurcation. Body piercing does not include the piercing of the outer perimeter or the lobe of the ear using a presterilized single-use stud-and-clasp ear-piercing system.