



Minnesota Body Art Industry Meeting March 18, 2025

Hosted by the Health Regulation Division

Agenda

1. Welcome/Objectives – Debbie
2. Quarterly Meeting - Debbie
3. Legislative Update – Jill
 - License type – PMU and tattooing
4. Evaluation: Ah
 - Quarterly report
5. LCR: Alison
 - Quarterly report
 - OpenGov
6. Open Discussion
 - Ground rules - Debbie
 - Mini Tattoo - Pete
7. Questions

Meeting Objectives

1. Build collaboration by bringing together Industry leaders and State officials
2. Educate Technicians and Establishment Owners on commonly seen issues and asked questions
3. Give Body Art technicians a chance to ask questions and learn from one another about best practices
4. Gives MDH a forum to bring new and changing information, laws and regulations to the industry in a timely manner

Industry Quarterly Meeting

The 2025 industry meetings are scheduled . A GovDelivery will be sent with the link as it gets closer to each meeting date. Make sure you subscribe or update your email information to receive GovDelivery notices.

- March 18, 2025 @ 1pm
- June 24, 2025 @ 1pm
- September 16, 2025 @ 1pm
- December 16, 2025 @ 1pm

Industry Quarterly Meeting ²

[Body Art Informational Webinars - MN Dept. of Health](#)

September 2024 & January 2025 meeting minutes have been posted

How to find the link:

1. Go to the MDH Body Art website main page
2. Resources tab
3. Body Art Informational Webinars

Legislative

Cosmetic Tattooing Proposal Idea

146B.01 Definitions

Subd. 4. **Body art; body art procedures.** "Body art" or "body art procedures" means physical body adornment using, but not limited to, traditional tattooing, cosmetic 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.

Subd. 9a. **Cosmetic tattooing.** "Cosmetic tattooing" means any method of placing ink or pigments into or under the skin or mucosa with needles or any other instruments used to puncture the skin to replicate the appearance of traditional makeup or to hide or neutralize skin discolorations, resulting in semi-permanent coloration of the skin or mucosa. Cosmetic tattooing includes micropigmentation and permanent makeup. Cosmetic tattooing does not include microneedling.

~~Subd. 18. **Micropigmentation or cosmetic tattooing.** "Micropigmentation or cosmetic tattooing" means the use of tattoos for permanent makeup or to hide or neutralize skin discolorations.~~

Subd. 30. **Traditional ~~T~~tattooing.** "Traditional ~~T~~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 to create an image, pattern, or other design, resulting in permanent coloration of the skin or mucosa. Traditional ~~T~~tattooing also includes micropigmentation and does not include cosmetic tattooing. Traditional tattooing does not include microblading.

Subd. 31. **Technician.** "Technician" or "body art technician" means any individual who is licensed under this chapter as a traditional tattoo technician, cosmetic tattoo technician, or as a body piercing technician or as both any combination of these licenses.

Cosmetic Tattooing Proposal Idea ²

146B.03 LICENSURE FOR BODY ART TECHNICIANS

Subdivision 1. **Licensure required.** (a) Effective January 1, 2011, no individual may perform traditional tattooing unless the individual holds a valid traditional tattoo technician license issued by the commissioner under this chapter, except as provided in subdivision 3.

(b) Effective July 1, 2027, no individual may perform cosmetic tattooing unless the individual holds a valid cosmetic tattooing technician license issued by the commissioner under this chapter, except as provided in subdivision 3.

~~(b)~~ (c) Effective January 1, 2011, no individual may perform body piercing unless the individual holds a valid body piercing technician license issued by the commissioner under this chapter, except as provided in subdivision 3.

~~(c)~~ (d) If an individual performs ~~both~~ any combination of traditional tattooing, cosmetic tattooing, and body piercing, the individual must hold a valid ~~dual-combination~~ body art technician license reflecting the types of body art procedures performed.

Cosmetic Tattooing Proposal Idea ³

Subd. 2. **Designation.** (a) No individual may use the title of "traditional tattooist," "traditional tattoo artist," "traditional tattoo technician," "body art practitioner," "body art technician," or other letters, words, or titles in connection with that individual's name which in any way represents that the individual is engaged in the practice of traditional tattooing or authorized to do so, unless the individual is licensed and authorized to perform traditional tattooing under this chapter.

(b) No individual may use the title of "cosmetic tattooist," "cosmetic tattoo artist," "cosmetic tattoo technician," "body art practitioner," "cosmetic body art technician" or other letters, words, or titles in connection with that individual's name which in any way represents that the individual is engaged in the practice of cosmetic tattooing or authorized to do so, unless the individual is licensed and authorized to perform cosmetic tattooing under this chapter.

~~(b)~~ (c) No individual may use the title "body piercer," "body piercing artist," "body art practitioner," "body art technician," or other letters, words, or titles in connection with that individual's name which in any way represents that the individual is engaged in the practice of body piercing or authorized to do so, unless the individual is licensed and authorized to perform body piercing under this chapter.

~~(c)~~ (d) Any representation made to the public by a licensed technician must specify the types of body art procedures the technician is licensed to perform.

Cosmetic Tattooing Proposal Idea ⁴

Subd. 5. **Action on licensure applications.** (a) The commissioner shall notify the applicant in writing of the action taken on the application. If the application is approved, the commissioner shall issue a traditional tattoo technician license, a cosmetic tattoo technician license, a body piercing technician license, or a ~~dual~~ combination body art technician license.

Subd. 7a. **Supervisors.** (a) A technician must have been licensed in Minnesota or in a jurisdiction with which Minnesota has reciprocity for at least:

(1) two years as a traditional tattoo technician licensed under section 146B.03, subdivision 4, 6, or 8, in order to supervise a temporary traditional tattoo technician; ~~or~~

(2) two years as a cosmetic tattoo technician licensed under section 146B.03, subdivision 4, 6, or 8, in order to supervise a temporary cosmetic tattoo technician; or

~~(23)~~ one year as a body piercing technician licensed under section 146B.03, subdivision 4, 6, or 8, or must have performed at least 500 body piercings, in order to supervise a temporary body piercing technician.

(b) Any technician who agrees to supervise more than two temporary traditional tattoo technicians or two temporary cosmetic tattoo technicians during the same time period, or more than four body piercing technicians during the same time period, must provide to the commissioner a supervisory plan that describes how the technician will provide supervision to each temporary technician in accordance with section 146B.01, subdivision 28. * MDH is considering limiting the number of apprenticeships each supervisor oversees.

Cosmetic Tattooing Proposal Idea ⁵

Subd. 12. **Required supervised experience.** An applicant for a body art technician license must complete the following minimum supervised experience for licensure:

(1) for a traditional tattoo technician license an applicant must complete a minimum of 200 hours of traditional tattoo experience under supervision;

(2) for a cosmetic tattoo technician license an applicant must complete a minimum of 200 hours of cosmetic tattoo experience under supervision;

(32) for a body piercing technician license an applicant must perform 250 body piercings under direct supervision and 250 body piercings under indirect supervision; and

(34) for a dual combination body art technician license an applicant must complete a minimum of 200 hours of tattoo experience under supervision and perform 250 body piercings under direct supervision and 250 body piercings under indirect supervision. the minimum required supervised experience for each license type.

Cosmetic Tattooing Proposal Idea ⁶

146B.06 HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS.

Subd. 2. **Standards for equipment, instruments, and supplies.** (a) Equipment, instruments, and supplies must comply with the health and safety standards in this subdivision before a licensed technician may conduct body art procedures.

(i) All inks and other pigments used in a body art procedure must be specifically manufactured for traditional tattoo or cosmetic tattoo procedures.

(j) Immediately before applying a traditional tattoo or cosmetic tattoo, the ink needed must be transferred from the ink bottle and placed into single-use paper or plastic cups. Upon completion of the traditional tattoo or cosmetic tattoo, the single-use cups and their contents must be discarded.

(p) Single-use disposable barriers or a chemical germicide must be used on all equipment that cannot be sterilized as part of the procedure as required under this section including, but not limited to, spray bottles, procedure light fixture handles, and tattoo machines. For the purpose of this subdivision, “tattoo machines” includes machines used for cosmetic tattooing.

Cosmetic Tattooing Proposal Idea ,

146B.07 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

Subd. 2. **Parent or legal guardian consent; prohibitions.**

(b) Traditional Tattooing or cosmetic tattooing an individual under the age of 18 is a gross misdemeanor, regardless of parental or guardian consent.

Subd. 3. **Informed consent.** Before performing a body art procedure, the technician shall obtain from the client a signed and dated informed consent form. The consent form must disclose:

(1) that a traditional tattoo or cosmetic tattoo is considered permanent and may only be removed with a surgical procedure and that any effective removal may leave scarring; or

(2) that body piercing may leave scarring.

Subd. 5. **Aftercare.** A technician shall provide each client with verbal and written instructions for the care of the traditionally tattooed, cosmetically tattooed, or pierced site upon the completion of the procedure. The written instructions must advise the client of the difference between normal skin or tissue irritation and infection and to consult a health care professional upon indication of infection of the skin or tissue.

Cosmetic Tattooing Proposal Idea ⁸

146B.10 FEES.

(j) The fee to change an establishment name or establishment type, such as traditional tattoo, cosmetic tattoo, piercing, or combination ~~and~~, is XXX.

- The Apt recognizes that there is no difference between tattooing and cosmetic tattooing and micro pigmentation. I believe NEHA has the same definition. No lowering of standards for cosmetic licenses should be considered.
- New Jersey separates cosmetic/traditional
- Standards should not be separated: hrs not how well you do things. Can't quantify what is good tattoo and not, solutions – will work with MDH

Evaluation

Complaints/Investigations (December 18, 2024 – March 17, 2025)

Complaints received – 10

1. Unlicensed practice – establishment & technician
2. Breach of supervision plan/contract
3. Unprofessional conduct - sexual
4. Theft
5. Tattoo of minors

Investigation Closed – 10

1. Substantiated – 1(civil penalty)
2. Unsubstantiated - 3
3. No violation – 0
4. Letter of Advisement – 0
5. Referral to local authority - 0 (i.e.. Police department, county health department, other entities)
6. No response from complainant - 3
7. Establishment closed – 0
8. No investigation - 3

Open Complaint Investigations – 36

1. Unlicensed practice – license lapse, unlicensed tech, unlicensed establishment
2. Supervision
3. Tattoo of minors
4. Theft
5. Piercing
6. Health & Safety standards

Licensing, Certification and Registration (LCR) Report

License Counts

License Counts as of March 18, 2025:

Establishments: 380

Temporary Body Art Events: 16 approved in 2025

Guest Licenses:

- Tattooist: 442 - Piercer: 4

Temporary Body Artists:

- Tattooist: 311 - Piercer: 31 - Dual: 10

Full Body Artists:

- Tattooist: 1400 - Piercer: 129 - Dual: 63



Licensing Application Systems: Technicians

- Body Art Technician Licensing System (BATLS)
 - For technicians only
 - Tattooist, Piercers and Dual technicians
 - Full, Temporary and Guest licenses

Licensing Application Systems: Establishments and Temporary Events

- MDH e-Licensing System
 - Also known as OpenGov
 - For establishments and temporary events only
- Claim Codes
 - Must be claimed to receive renewal information

[Minnesota Department of Health Licensing System Help - MN Dept. of Health](#)

Link to the MDH OpenGov help page. It has screenshots showing you how to create an account and claim an establishment license.

Open Discussion Ground Rules

We are in this space to bring forth ideas and communication to improve the process and regulation of the industry. Ultimately, the goal is to protect public safety. If you have personal grievances about your license, inspection, investigation or one another, contact staff to discuss them individually. If you wish to share a personal experience, then share a solution as well.

1. All microphones will remain muted when not speaking
2. Use the raise hand feature if you would like to contribute to the discussion
3. When speaking, please:
 - a) Stay on topic. If you have other topic ideas, please put that in chat and if time allows, we can consider adding it to the agenda;
 - b) Be respectful and considerate of others. Refrain from using any specific names of individual(s) or establishment(s). This includes the use of profanity or targeting behaviors/language; and
 - c) Be open to other's ideas, perspectives, or concerns. We can all agree to disagree.

Mini Tattoo Discussion

- Realistically it's hard to quantify tattoo types. Not about separating the type but more about expertise and knowledge. Micro tattooing is too small with the amount of detail it's hard to hold up over time. Quality of design becomes a blob because of size and detail of such a small design. Technique is done the same as traditional tattoo.
- mini tattoo is just a type of art, mainly fine-line. Just like traditional, neo, watercolor, it's a public personal choice of what they like. Each art has its own healing properties with pros/cons. I started with PMU, but fine line has grown, new form of art, industry needs to be more open to it. Newcomers, difficult time entering industry, establishments not taking on students without general work (janitorial), I'm migrating towards BA and flying out to get training. PMU artists are now taking initiative to learn through courses, difficult to find apprenticeship. I take on apprentices because it is hard for them to find training.
- not definition but concern is cosmetic tattooers opening classes with minimal experience giving individual training. Minimal experience and knowledge, complete courses in a short time with no experience, being charged large amounts of money for supervision. Many start with PMU with no intention of doing PMU, just pay to get sign off on supervision hours. Many technicians have said this.

Mini Tattoo Discussion ₂

- PMU- general gist is apprentice just wants to pay for course and pursue tiny tattoo vs eyebrows. I'm nervous that people paying without intent to learn, it's a fast track to doing tattoos. There are good classes and flying out for learning. Distinction needs to be made between techniques, are similar but not the same - ink, needles. Currently doing apprenticeship for piercing. More educ on aspects of piercing and not just focus on getting the required number of piercings. Plan to do more than the required piercings. When you take on an apprentice you affect their career and protect artist integrity.
- I agree permanent makeup classes/apprenticeships are easier to find availability, pay & sign up for than traditional tattoo apprenticeships
- Concern for an artist with limited experience who decides to perform eyeliner close to the eye itself...medically.

Body Art Licensing Contact Information

Body Art licensing questions: call 651-201-4200 or email health.ba@state.mn.us.

Mail correspondence to:

Minnesota Department of Health
Health Occupations Program
Attn: Body Art
PO Box 64882
Saint Paul, MN 55164-0882

Questions



Next Meeting: June 24, 2025, 1pm
Please send agenda topics to Debbie @
Debbie.thao@state.mn.us

Q1: Would current licensed artists be grandfathered into a dual license if they've been performing both?

A1: We can talk about this further, we haven't discussed at this time.

Q2: How do I get my license? Pre/Post OpenGov.

A2. Get license in OpenGov once approved. If you need a copy, or applied 4yrs ago, reach out to the ba inbox for a copy. Template is different in OpenGov, preference is through OpenGov

Thank You!

Health Regulation Division,

Minnesota Department of Health

651-201-4200