



# Minnesota Body Art Industry Meeting

## June 24, 2025

Hosted by the Health Regulation Division

# Agenda

1. Welcome/Objectives – Debbie
2. Quarterly Meeting - Debbie
3. Legislative Update – Rick/Debbie
  - License type – cosmetic/traditional
4. Evaluation: Pete/Debbie
  - Quarterly report
  - FDA Ink Recall
  - Complaint
5. LCR: Rachel/Jenna
  - Quarterly report
6. Open Discussion
  - Ground rules - Debbie
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 <sup>2</sup>

## [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

In March industry meeting, MDH presented proposal ideas regarding the industries request to separate traditional tattoo from cosmetic tattoo.

- Define traditional tattoo and cosmetic tattoo
- Licensure requirements including supervised experience
- Title designation
- Health and safety standard requirements (inspection)
- Professional standards
- Fees

- In March:
  - APT does not recognize that there are any differences between traditional and cosmetic tattooing; standards should not be separated
- Since then, I have had an email to revisit this topic
  - Encourage you to reach out to your local legislative representative



# Evaluation

# Complaints/Investigations (March 17, 2025 – June 16, 2025)

## Complaints received – 22

1. Unlicensed practice – establishment & technician
2. Breach of supervision plan/contract
3. Unprofessional conduct – sexual, harm
4. Health & Safety – unsanitary conditions
5. Tattoo of minors
6. Piercing of minors without consent

## Investigation Closed – 2

1. Unsubstantiated - 1
2. No response from complainant – 1

## Open Complaint Investigations – 56

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

We have been made aware of a growing concern regarding nurses and piercing. We have reached out to the Board of Nurses and will update as we get more information.

As a reminder, all temp events within MDH jurisdiction requires a temp event license ([Sec. 146B.02 MN Statutes](#) Subd.8).

Complaints: [Body Art Complaint Form - MN Dept. of Health](#)

Sacred Tattoo Ink – contaminated with microorganisms (5/7/2025).

- Sacred Tattoo Ink, Raven Black; CI# 77266; Lot#: RB0624; Best Before: June 28 2027
- Sacred Tattoo Ink, Sunny Daze; CI# 21095; Lot#: SD1124; Best Before: Nov 1 2027
  - Symptoms of infection
    - Appearance of rashes or lesions in areas where ink is applied
    - Similar to allergic reaction
    - Can lead to permanent scarring

# Sacred Tattoo Ink Recall



# Licensing, Certification and Registration (LCR) Report

# License Counts

## License Counts as of June 16, 2025:

Establishments: 392 (+12)

Temporary Body Art Events: 37 (+21) approved in 2025

### Guest Licenses:

- Tattooist: 530 (+88) - Piercer: 45 (+1)

### Temporary Body Artists:

- Tattooist: 305 (-6) - Piercer: 37 (+6) - Dual: 10

### Full Body Artists:

- Tattooist: 1517 (+117) - Piercer: 136 (+7) - Dual: 70 (+7)





# 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.

# Discussion



## Body Art Licensing Contact Information

Body Art licensing questions: call 651-201-4200 or email [health.ba@state.mn.us](mailto: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](mailto:Debbie.thao@state.mn.us)



Q1. Has MDH had an increase in temp events?

A1. Yes, in 2025 we have received 47 temporary event applications as compared to 2024 where we had 36 temporary event applications for the whole year.

Q2. When I log into the system I can view my technician license but not my establishment license. Are they found in the same location?

Q2. Technician licenses are still done through BATLS. The establishment licenses are now through OpenGov for MDH licensed establishments.

Q3. Will a revisor be appointed to put forth proposals and will the industry be informed or able to be part of the discussion?

A3. The department will provide technical assistance if a legislative representative puts forth a bill proposal, not all proposals result in a legislative change, MDH can put forward a proposal but we are here to provide technical assistance on whether the proposal is doable or impacts regulation. The question will be provided to our legislative team for further response

Q4. Will you also be providing those changes or trainings to local government too?

A4. The question will be provided to our legislative team for a response

Q5. What happened to the list of artists who hold licenses for clients to look up?

A5. The link is at the top of this page.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/providers/bodyart/licenses/index.html>

# Thank You!

**Health Regulation Division,**  
*Minnesota Department of Health*  
651-201-4200