



Minnesota Body Art Industry Meeting September 16, 2025

Hosted by the Health Regulation Division

Agenda

1. Welcome/Objectives – Debbie
2. Quarterly Meeting - Debbie
3. Staff Reports
 1. Evaluation: Pete/Debbie
 1. Quarterly report - Pete
 2. Complaint f/up - Debbie
 2. LCR: Alison
 1. Quarterly report
5. New Topic(s)
 1. Temp Event – Evaluation/LCR
 2. Renewals – LCR
6. Open Discussion
 - Ground rules – Debbie
 - ID for minors – Liz Q, Fraidy Cats
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

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

How to find the link:

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

Evaluation

Complaints/Investigations (June 17, 2025 – September 12, 2025)

Complaints received – 6

1. Unlicensed practice – establishment & technician
2. Supervision
3. Health & Safety
4. Misrepresentation of credentials

Investigation Active – 52

Investigation Closed - 4

1. No response from complainant - 4

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](#)

Licensing, Certification and Registration (LCR) Report

License Counts

License Counts as of September 15, 2025:

Establishments: 392 (+12)

Temporary Body Art Events: 63 approved in 2025

Guest Licenses:

- Tattooist: 640
- Piercer: 9

Temporary Body Artists:

- Tattooist: 314- Piercer: 35- Dual: 9

Full Body Artists:

- Tattooist: 1556 - Piercer: 144 - Dual: 72



New Topic(s)

Temporary Events

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

- Application can be found in OpenGov and is considered submitted when the applicant submits payment for the application.
- Applications must be received at least 14 days before the start of the event
- Applications received less than 14 days before the event may be processed if:
 - Completed application – application, fee, required documents
 - Inspection can be achieved
- Only valid for the specified dates and hours listed on the application and license issued
- Any violation of this chapter will be subject to disciplinary action ([Sec. 146B.08 MN Statutes](#))

Establishment renewals via OpenGov

- Expire September 30, 2025
- What happens if I miss the Sept. 30, deadline?
 - **Your body art establishment will be out of compliance with [Minnesota Statutes, section 146B.02](#)**. A person or persons must have a body art establishment license in order to operate a body art establishment where body art is performed ([Minnesota Statutes, section 146B.02, subdivision 1](#) and [Minnesota Statutes, section 146B.01, subdivision 4](#)).

- What happens if I miss the Sept. 30, deadline?
 - **Your body art establishment will be out of compliance with [Minnesota Statutes, section 146B.02](#).** A person or persons must have a body art establishment license in order to operate a body art establishment where body art is performed ([Minnesota Statutes, section 146B.02, subdivision 1](#) and [Minnesota Statutes, section 146B.01, subdivision 4](#)).
 - Applications submitted on or after Sept. 30, will be fined \$300 late fee. Applications received on or after Sept. 30, will be considered late and must pay the \$300 late fee ([Minnesota Statutes, section 146B.10, subdivision 2\(b\)](#)).

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.

- ID of minors when minor and parent have different last names – Liz, Fraidy Cats
- Apprenticeship requirements – quality, hours, supervision, temp license vs apprentice license

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: December 16, 2025, 1pm
Please send agenda topics to Debbie Thao @
Debbie.thao@state.mn.us

Q1. Zoning and temp event – I have been working with the county around zoning and they stated I would just provide the same zoning with the application. Can I mail it in or do I need to hand deliver it?

A1. Upload the zoning approval with each application. Work with your local zoning authority to determine if they require a new zoning approval for each temp event.

Q2. ID for minors – Is a step-parent who does not have the same last name as the minor allowed to authorize a minor for piercing?

A2. Statute states that only a parent or legal guardian can give consent. A step-parent is not automatically given guardianship of the minor therefore the step-parent would need to provide documentation that they have legal guardianship of the minor.

Q3. Temp event – Are events held at breweries and pubs violating health codes?

A3. Events held at breweries and pubs do not necessarily violate food or health codes. Environmental health was consulted and as long as the event is held in a space that is accessible to the public (public space) and where food or beverages are not being bottled, then it does not violate health codes. The temp event would still need to meet the statutory requirements for a temp event such as hand sink, flooring, and set-up.

Q4. Is the technician liable for a client who has consumed alcohol at a brewery event?

A4. A technician is not liable for a client if the client chooses to consume alcohol following a body art service. If the technician notes the client is intoxicated but chooses to provide service to the client, the technician will be held liable. [\(Mn Ch. 146B.07 Subd. 2\(5d\)\)](#)

Q5. Fees – It seems the cost to renew our license or temp events seems to be going up along with other costs, i.e. property tax, taxes. Is this something i.e. you can look to discuss and reduce?

A5. Fees have not been increased since 2017. Any change in fees require statutory change. You may want to connect with your local legislative representative to bring your concerns. MDH can provide technical assistance. [LCC-GIS](#) can assist you with identifying your local representative.

Thank You!

Health Regulation Division,

Minnesota Department of Health

651-201-4200