



City of Minneapolis
Licenses and Consumer Services
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Body Art Technicians and Establishments Definitions and License Requirements Effective January 1, 2011

Body Art: Physical body adornment including but not limited to tattooing and body piercing. Body art does not include procedures performed by licensed medical or dental professionals if the procedures are within the scope of their practice.

Body Piercer: Any person engaged in the practice of puncturing or penetrating a person's skin and tissue and inserting jewelry or another adornment into the opening. Artists are required to obtain a [Minnesota Body Art Technician License](#) which is valid at any licensed establishment or temporary event. Ear piercing, puncturing the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear using a pre-sterilized single use stud and clasp ear piercing system, is exempt from this license.

Establishment: Any structure or venue, whether permanent or temporary, where body art is performed. A [Minneapolis Body Art Establishment license](#) and a [Minnesota Body Art Establishment License Exemption](#) are required. There is no fee required for the State of Minnesota Body Art Establishment License Exemption and it is submitted to the State of Minnesota only once. It does not have to be renewed annually.

Guest Artist: Individuals who perform body art procedures temporarily at body art establishments (Guest Artist Events) or body art conventions (Convention Events) for up to 30 days per calendar year. Artists are required to obtain a [State of Minnesota Guest Artist License](#) unless they have a Minnesota Body Art Technician license. This license may be used at multiple licensed events.

Tattooist: Any person engaged in the practice of placing indelible ink, or other pigment, into or under the skin by the aid of needles or any other instruments used to puncture the skin, resulting in permanent coloration of the skin. This includes all forms of cosmetic tattooing. Artists are required to obtain a [Minnesota Body Art Technician License](#) which is valid at any licensed establishment or temporary event.

Temporary Event: A [Minneapolis Body Art Temporary Events License](#) is required for establishments or professional organizations that sponsor or participate in Temporary Events. Upon approval of the license, the City of Minneapolis will submit the State of Minnesota License Exemption documentation.

Guest Artist Events are sponsored by a licensed body art establishment on their premises for up to 21 days. Guest Artists Events are limited to four times per calendar year. Artists are required to obtain a [State of Minnesota Guest Artist License](#) unless they have a Minnesota Body Art Technician license.

Convention Events are held in buildings other than their licensed premises for up to seven days. Establishments or Professional Associations may sponsor up to two Convention Events per calendar year. Artists are required to obtain a [State of Minnesota Guest Artist License](#) unless they have a Minnesota Body Art Technician license.

Temporary Artists: Individuals who perform body art procedures under the direct supervision of a single licensed technician. A [Minnesota Temporary Body Art Technician License](#) is required.

For more information, <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpsc/hop/tattoo/bodyartapplications.html>