

# Alabama Department of Public Health

## How to Obtain a Body Art Operator Permit

A “body art operator” is any person who controls, operates, manages, conducts, or practices body art activities at a body art facility and who is responsible for compliance with the Body Art Rules, whether actually performing body art or not. The term includes technicians or apprentices who work under the operator and perform body art activities. Body art procedures include tattooing, branding, piercing, and permanent make-up such as microblading.

### How do I become permitted to perform body art procedures in Alabama?

- You must be employed by and working at a body art facility licensed by the Department. This can include a tattoo studio, salon/spa, etc.
- Fill out an application provided by the Department that includes your name, date of birth, sex, residence address, mailing address, phone number, place(s) of employment as an operator, and years experience.
- Show proof of having taken and passed a bloodborne pathogen training program approved by the Department. For a list of bloodborne pathogen training courses approved in Alabama, click on the link below:  
<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/approvedbloodbornepathogentrainingcourses.pdf>
- Provide proof of completing the Hepatitis B vaccination series or sign a letter of declination provided by the Department

### Can I perform body art procedures (tattoos, piercings, etc.) from my home?

- No. All body art procedures shall be performed in a body art facility which has a current, valid license issued by the Health Department.
- In order to obtain a body art facility license, please refer to the information found here and contact your local county health department for further instructions:  
[www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/guidelinesbodyartfacilities.pdf](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/guidelinesbodyartfacilities.pdf)

*For more information, contact your local county health department.*