

**GUILFORD COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH
BODY PIERCING
REGULATIONS**

I. Purpose:

This regulation establishes standards for businesses that offer body piercing services within Guilford County.

II. Scope:

This regulation applies to all body piercing operations in Guilford County.

III. Definitions:

- (A) Customer - means any person entering upon the premises of and engaging in discussion with a body piercing vendor and/or technician for the purposes of inquiring about body piercing services offered for sale, and/or negotiating the purchase of these services.
- (B) Body Piercing - means piercing of any part of the human anatomy with any instrument whatsoever to provide a channel in which jewelry or other adornments may be worn. This does not include piercing of the ear lobe.
- (C) Jewelry - means any personal ornament inserted into a newly-pierced area.
- (D) Body Piercing Vendor/Technician - means any person, firm, corporation or other entity which sells or offers to sell body piercing services to the general public, including any and all employees, agents, representatives and independent contractors of a firm, corporation or other entity.

IV. Registration:

- (A) No person shall provide body piercing services without registering as a body piercing vendor/technician with the Department of Public Health (DPH).
- (B) The Department of Public Health shall issue a body piercing registration to any person who:
 - 1. Files an application in the form or manner prescribed by the Department (DPH).

2. Affirms by written signature on the registration form to do the following:

- (a) Conspicuously post the following sign in the location(s) within the business where body piercing is performed for customers.

“As with any invasive procedure, body piercing may involve possible health risks. Body piercing could result in:

- **Pain, bleeding, swelling, infection, scarring of the pierced area and nerve damage.**

The piercing technician should:

- **Properly cleanse the piercing site before piercing;**
- **Use sterilized equipment;**
- **Use sterile piercing techniques; and**
- **Inform client of proper aftercare of the pierced area.”**

This sign (notice) shall not be less than 8-1/2 x 11 inches in size.

- (b) Conspicuously post the following sign in the location(s) within the business where body piercing is performed for customers.

“Persons being pierced must be at least eighteen (18) years of age unless that person is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and the parent or legal guardian gives written consent on-site.”

(C) A registration issued under this section shall state that registration does not attest to the body piercing technician/vendor’s qualifications based on training or education, nor does the registration validate minimum competency to perform body piercing services.

(D) A registration issued under this section expires annually and may be renewed upon application to the DPH and compliance with Article IV of these regulations.

V. **Age Requirements:** It shall be unlawful to perform body piercing on any person under the age of eighteen (18) unless that person’s parent or legal guardian accompanies the person to the body-piercing premises and provides written consent on site.

VI. **Age Verification:**

(A) The body piercing vendor shall, prior to performing any body piercing, make sure that the customer to be pierced is eighteen years of age or older or has the consent of a parent or legal guardian to be pierced. If the customer is less than eighteen years of age, they must bring a parent or legal guardian to the premises and the parent or legal guardian must sign a consent form giving their permission for the piercing of the customer.

- (B) In the event that the customer is eighteen years of age or older, the body piercing vendor shall assure himself or herself of the age of the customer by viewing two forms of identification, one of which shall be a picture form of identification.
- (C) The types of identification accepted shall be legal forms of identification such as a birth certificate, drivers license, state identification card or military identification card. The vendor shall make a written record of all of the pertinent information on these two forms of identification and shall maintain this written record for inspection by competent authorities for the period of three years from the date the service is rendered.
- (D) The body piercing vendor shall verify that an individual is the parent or legal guardian of a customer under the age of eighteen (18) prior to their giving written consent for body piercing services.
- (E) The documents needed for verification of parent or legal guardian shall be a copy of the minor's birth certificate or court documents that establish legal guardianship.

VII. Signage Required:

A body piercing vendor shall conspicuously post the following signs in the location within the business where body piercing is performed, on a sign not less than 8-1/2 x 11 inches in size, as approved by DPH:

- (1) **“Persons being pierced must be at least eighteen (18) years of age unless that person is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and the parent or legal guardian gives written consent on-site.”**
- (2) **“As with any invasive procedure, body piercing may involve possible health risks. Body piercing could result in:**
 - **Pain, bleeding, swelling, infection, scarring of the pierced area and nerve damage.**

The piercing technician should:

- **Properly cleanse the piercing site before piercing;**
- **Use sterilized equipment;**
- **Use sterile piercing techniques; and**
- **Inform client of proper aftercare of the pierced area.”**

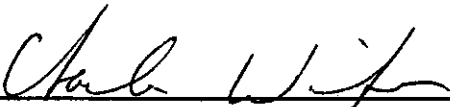
VIII. Jewelry Requirement:

Jewelry must be made of surgical-implant-grade stainless steel, solid 14K or 18K white or yellow gold, niobium, titanium or platinum and which is free of nicks, scratches, or irregular surfaces and which has been properly sterilized prior to use.

IX Violation of Local Regulations:

If any person shall violate this ordinance (regulation) created under Article 5 of Chapter 162A, NC General Statutes, he/she shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per day for every day he/she is in violation of this ordinance (regulation).

This regulation shall take effect immediately upon adoption.



Chairperson, Guilford County
Board of Health