

Safe Body Piercing

In Florida

In 1999, the Florida Legislature enacted section 381.0075, Florida Statutes, providing for the inspection and licensing of body-piercing salons.

Responsibility for this task was given to the Florida Department of Health.

The purpose of this new law was to help protect the public from the spread of infectious diseases during the piercing process, a primary element of the mission of the Florida Department of Health.

Chapter 64E-19 of the Florida Administrative Code is the rule promulgated by the Department of Health for implementing the inspection and licensing process.

The rules prescribe minimum sanitary and safety requirements related to the design and operation of body-piercing salons in Florida. The statute and rules provide minimum standards and requirements related to areas such as the following: physical premises, sanitizing and sterilizing, piercing procedures, facility and customer records, operator and staff training, injury reports, parental consent, and enforcement.

Inspections and reinspections will be conducted throughout Florida by teams from local county health departments that include specialists in environmental health and nursing. Inspections will ensure compliance with both the statute and the rules.

This video was developed to acquaint the body-piercing industry with the minimum standards for body-piercing salons and temporary establishments.

All structural, electrical, mechanical, ventilation, and plumbing components must comply with local building and zoning codes.

The walls, floors, ceilings, and equipment of all areas of the salon must be clean and in good repair.

Walls and floors must be constructed of smooth, non-absorbent and washable materials in areas where body-piercing procedures are conducted, where equipment and instruments are cleaned, and in restrooms.

Wooden floors are allowed provided they are varnished or sealed with commercial water repellent coating and well maintained.

All procedure surfaces must be constructed of a smooth, non-absorbent, and washable material, and must be cleaned and sanitized after each customer with a tuberculocidal sanitizer as indicated by the product label.

Any openings to the outside must be protected by such means as self-closing doors, screened or closed windows, or controlled air currents to protect against vermin and insects. If screening is used, it may not be less than 16 mesh to the inch.

Salons are required to have a minimum of forty-five square feet of floor space in the piercing area for each person performing body piercing in the salon.

Salons must also have an area that can be screened from public view for customers who request privacy.

Multiple body-piercing stations need to be separated by dividers, curtains, or partitions that can be cleaned or laundered.

All salons must meet certain lighting requirements in specific areas within the establishment. Specifically, artificial light providing a minimum of twenty foot-candles three feet off the floor must be present throughout the salon.

Further, there must be at least one hundred foot-candles of illumination at the level where the body-piercing procedure is being performed and where instruments and sharps are assembled. Spotlighting can be used to achieve this level of illumination.

A handsink separate from handsinks in restrooms, liquid soap, and disposable paper towels must be readily accessible. There must be one handsink for every three body-piercing personnel.

The handsink should be located within each body-piercing area or centrally located within the

overall workroom or area.

The hot water at these handsinks is not to exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

Restrooms in the salon must also be supplied with liquid soap, toilet tissue, single **use** paper towels, and a waste receptacle.

Each salon must have at least a separate one-compartment sink with hot and cold running water and a steam autoclave for cleaning and sterilizing instruments.

The one-compartment sink and autoclave must be of adequate depth or capacity to submerge or otherwise accommodate the instruments being cleaned or autoclaved. Sanitizers used in the cleaning process must have demonstrated tuberculocidal activity as indicated by the product label and be registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Salons that use ultrasonic units with heating elements to clean their instruments are not required to have hot water at the one-compartment sink, provided the heating elements can raise the temperature of the cleaning solution to the required minimum of 100 degrees Fahrenheit and maintain that temperature throughout the cleaning cycle.

All autoclaves must be tested using a spore destruction test to insure that they are attaining minimum operating standards.

The test must be performed every forty hours of autoclave operation or at least on a quarterly basis.

Salons must keep a log documenting the hours of autoclave operation, and spore tests must be verified by an independent laboratory.

Autoclaves must be cleaned at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer and must be serviced at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer but not less than once a year.

A copy of the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and servicing the autoclave must be maintained on file in the salon.

Each piercing station must have at least one waste receptacle for collecting, storing, and

disposing of solid waste so that it does not create a sanitary nuisance as defined in Chapter 386, Florida Statutes.

In general, a sanitary nuisance would be any condition that adversely affects the health or life of individuals or the general public.

Biomedical waste must be managed in accordance with Chapter 64E-16 of the Florida Administrative Code.

Generally, this means that sharps, such as needles used in the piercing procedure, must be placed directly into a sharps container where the procedure took place. This is also known as the point of origin. Likewise, saturated gauze or other such materials must be placed in a red bag at the point of origin.

Animals are not allowed in the body-piercing salon; however, aquariums with fish are permissible in waiting rooms and non-procedural areas.

Smoking is not allowed where body-piercing procedures are performed or instruments and supplies are cleaned and stored. Eating and drinking are allowed only for first-aid purposes.

Water supplies and sewage disposal must comply with the requirements of 64E-8, 62-550, or 62-600 of the Florida Administrative Code. This means that water and sewage systems must have been approved by the Department of Health or the Department of Environmental Protection.

There shall be no direct opening between a body-piercing salon and any building or any portion of a building used as living or sleeping quarters, or as a food establishment.

Each salon must have specific equipment and supplies needed for providing body-piercing services and for cleaning and sterilizing instruments. At a minimum this would include a separate one-compartment sink with hot and cold running water under pressure for cleaning instruments, an autoclave, instruments and single use supplies for performing piercings, work tables or counters, customer chairs, and storage cabinets or containers for storing cleaned and sterilized instruments and supplies.

All non-disposable instruments used for body piercing must be cleaned and sterilized after each

use as specified in subsection 381.0075 (11), including the temperature requirements.

Unless otherwise specified by the autoclave manufacturer, instruments that are to be autoclaved must be packaged individually in single use, paper peel packs or other containers used for sterilizing instruments and marked with the expiration date. The expiration date cannot be more than thirty days from the date the instrument was autoclaved.

Autoclave sterilization must be conducted per the manufacturer's recommendation for time and pressure.

All sterilized instruments must remain stored in sterilized packages or containers until just prior to performing a body-piercing procedure.

When several instruments are sterilized and packaged together, such as in a single use setup, all instruments must be re-sterilized whether or not the instrument has been used.

Jewelry may be sterilized with a liquid chemical sterilant that has been cleared for use by the United States Food and Drug Administration provided the sterilization is performed according to the procedures on the product label.

Finally, all clean or packaged sterilized instruments and supplies must be stored in a clean, dry, closed cabinet or in tightly covered containers.

Florida law requires that body-piercing salons maintain specific records. Before piercing can begin, customers must be provided with verbal and written informed consent information that has been approved by the county health department. At a minimum, the information must include a brief description of the piercing procedure, any precautions to be taken by the customer before the piercing, a description of the risks and possible consequences of body-piercing services, instructions for care and restrictions following a piercing procedure, and restrictions against the piercing of minors.

Customers must sign and date a statement indicating that they have received and discussed the information with the operator or piercer.

The operator and/or piercer must also sign and date the statement and retain the original with all

other required records on that customer.

A copy of the statement must be provided to the customer upon request.

The customer record must include the person's name, address and telephone number, date of birth, race and sex, their physician's name, address and telephone number, the name, telephone number and address of an emergency contact person, a list of allergies including allergies to medicines or topical solutions used by the establishment, history of bleeding disorders, the date of the customer's initial visit and any subsequent visits, the body part or location that was pierced, a description of the jewelry used in the piercing, a description of any complications that occurred at the time of the piercing procedure, and the signature and printed name of the person performing the piercing at each visit.

All customers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. In addition, all customers under the age of 18 must have a written, notarized parental consent statement which must be kept on file. The statement must include a description of the type of piercing that will be performed on the minor.

Any injury or complaint of injury, suspected infections that require treatment by a licensed practitioner, or any notifiable diseases resulting from the body-piercing procedure that become known to the operator must be reported to the local county health department by the operator within 72 hours of the operator becoming aware of the complaint or condition. The report must be submitted on Department of Health Form 4122, September 02, BODY PIERCING SALON INJURY REPORT.

Piercers must be free of any infection or any other visible disease condition that may be transmitted as a result of carrying out the piercing procedure such as coughing, fever, chills, jaundice, open sores, or rashes.

Both before and after performing piercing procedures, piercers must thoroughly wash their hands in hot running water using liquid soap, rinse their hands, and dry them with single use disposable paper towels.

Piercers must wear disposable sterile medical gloves when performing the procedure, and the

gloves must be discarded after the completion of each procedure on an individual customer.

Should the gloves be torn, punctured, or otherwise contaminated, piercers must re-wash their hands immediately, using the procedure previously described, and put on a new pair of sterile gloves.

A mask must be used when serving a customer. Protective eyewear should be worn if the piercer determines that spattering is likely to occur.

Only single use sterilized piercing needles, scalpels, sterilized jewelry, and prepackaged single use sterile gauze or cotton swabs may be used in piercing procedures.

Other single use items include paper tissues or paper products, paper or plastic cups, and razors.

Single use items, contaminated prior to or during their use, must be immediately discarded and replaced with new items before the procedure can resume.

Jewelry contaminated prior to or during its use must be replaced with another piece of sterile jewelry.

Before performing a body piercing, the skin and surrounding area where the piercing is to be done must be cleansed with an antiseptic solution.

Cleansing should be done in a circular motion going from the middle to the outer area. A single use sterile gauze pad or other sterile product may be used.

If shaving is necessary, a **single use razor must** be used. The razor must be disposed of immediately after use.

Before an oral piercing, the customer must rinse his or her mouth with an antiseptic mouthwash.

In the event of blood flow during the procedure, all products used to check the flow of blood, or to absorb blood, must be sterile single use products.

When the body-piercing procedure is completed, piercers must apply an antiseptic solution to the pierced area with a sterile, single use cotton swab or gauze pad.

Records related to maintenance, personnel, and training must also be maintained by salons.

Autoclave maintenance records and spore test results for each autoclave must be maintained by the salon.

The salon must have a record on the operator as well as all persons performing body-piercing services. The record should include their name, date of birth, sex, home address and telephone numbers, dates of hire, duties and responsibilities. These records must be maintained for at least two years after the person's employment ends.

Salons must maintain records of the training received by operators and piercers as required by Florida law.

Operators and piercers must complete formal training which details compliance with the requirements of Chapter 64E-19, including safety and sanitation, sterilization requirements, and standard precautions for preventing the transmission of infectious diseases.

Operators and piercers must complete the required training prior to assuming responsibilities in a salon.

Salons are required to post in public view the name, address, and phone number of the county health department having jurisdiction over the facility, as well as the procedure for filing a complaint.

Finally, a copy of section 381.0075, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 64E-19, Florida Administrative Code, must be maintained on file at each salon.

Body-piercing salon operators must submit an application for a license, along with the licensing fee, within the timeframe specified by the county health department.

Once the inspection team from the county health department has assured that the establishment is in compliance with the requirements, the salon will be issued a license to operate.

Licenses expire annually on September 30th.

Temporary establishments must secure a temporary license. The county health department must

be notified at least seven days before operation. Unless specified in the rule, temporary establishments must meet the same requirements as salons at fixed locations.

County health department staff must be granted access to the premises of body-piercing salons any time during the salon's normal hours of operation. This includes access to the physical premises as well as access to all records.

Body-piercing salons that do not comply with the provisions of the law and rule are subject to administrative fines, court action, cancellation, revocation or suspension of the license, or a citation issued by the Department of Health.

In conclusion, body-piercing salons operating in Florida must be licensed by the Florida Department of Health. To be eligible for a license, salons must comply with the provisions of Chapter 64E-19, Florida Administrative Code, and Section 381.0075, Florida Statutes.

We hope this program has better acquainted you with the minimum standards and inspection process for body-piercing salons and temporary establishments.