



Guidance on Permitting an Existing Body Art Studio

The Department of Public Health (DPH) Chapter 511-3-8, Rules, and Regulation for Body Art, defines body art as any facility or building on a fixed foundation wherein a body artist performs body art. An existing studio is characterized as one currently in existence on or before October 6, 2023, and complies with a local county board of health or county ordinance. Upon the rules effective date, an existing studio shall be given a maximum of twelve months (12) to meet the applicable requirements and obtain a new DPH permit to operate in the state of Georgia. Existing studios should receive notice on how to obtain a new permit from the local County Health Department (LCHD), Environmental Health (EH) Office where the studio is physically located.

Process for Existing Studios to Obtain a DPH Permit:

1. Complete an application with the LCHD, EH Office in the county where the studio is located. The applicant will also be required to list the Body Artists working in the studio at the time of submitting the application and update the list as necessary. An applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
2. Pay all applicable local fees to the LCHD, EH Office.
3. Submit a layout of the existing facility if one is not already on file with the LCHD, EH Office or if there are changes in the layout or operation.
4. Before issuance of a permit, each Body Art Studio shall develop the required written policies and operating procedures that address the following:
 - a. Sterilization of instruments and equipment and Emergency Sterilization Procedures.
 - b. Body Artist and Employee Health.
 - c. Body Artist and Employee Drug and Alcohol Use.
 - d. Sanitizing areas and equipment between use.
 - e. Disposal of waste.
 - f. Record keeping.
 - g. Client screening.
 - h. Aftercare.
 - i. Exposure control plan.
 - j. Emergency plan for accidents that addresses first aid procedures; and
 - k. Water Interruption plan.
5. Submit for review examples of studio's client file forms, the client application, client evaluation, informed consent, and aftercare instructions.
6. Submit specification sheets on equipment, as necessary, for approval or continued use.
7. Upon completion of the plan review, the LCHD, EH Office will either schedule a studio inspection or provide a written notification of the studio's deficiencies. The health authority may require existing equipment or facilities to be replaced.
8. After the studio compliance inspection, the LCHD, EH Office will either issue a permit or notify the applicant in writing of the deficiencies and corrective actions needed to comply with the rules.

Please contact the [LCHD, EH Office](#) for more information on obtaining the required DPH Body Art permit.