PORTSMOUTH
Health Department

Charting a Course for Good Health

Body Art: Tattoos and Piercings

Body art is a popular form of self-expression. Tattoos and body piercings are typically created by professional tattoo artists and body piercers and appear on the body as permanent markings and decorative metal.

The health and safety procedures for body art establishments and the artists are regulated by the Portsmouth Health Department under *Chapter 3 of the Code for the City of Portsmouth Regulating Body Art Establishments.*

How to Obtain <u>New</u> Body Art Establishment/Body Artist Permits

- Obtain zoning approval from Portsmouth Department of Planning.
- Contact the Portsmouth Department of Permits and Inspections.
- Submit to the Portsmouth Health Department's Environmental Health office the following:
    1. The body art establishment application.
    2. The $1,500.^{00} application fee.
    3. A separate application for each body artist complete with the required documentation.
        - There is no fee for the body artist permit.
    4. A detailed floor plan of the body art facility. (There is a $200.00 plan review fee.)
    5. The facility and each individual body artist is issued the annual permit once a satisfactory inspection by the Environmental Health Specialist verifies that the facility and each body art artist meet the requirements of *Chapter 3 of the Code for the City of Portsmouth Regulating Body Art Establishments.*

How to <u>Renew</u> Annual Body Art Establishment/Body Artist Permits

- Submit to the Portsmouth Health Department's Environmental Health office the following:
    1. The body art establishment application.
    2. The $1,500.^{00} annual fee.
    3. A separate application for each body artist complete with the required documentation.
        - There is no fee for the body artist permit.
    4. The facility and each individual body artist is issued the annual permit once a satisfactory inspection by the Environmental Health Specialist verifies that the facility and each body art artist meet the requirements of *Chapter 3 of the Code for the City of Portsmouth Regulating Body Art Establishments.*

*The applications are on the Portsmouth Health Department web site at http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/LHD/portsmouth/index.htm