

## **Notice**

TO: Body Art Studio Owners & Individual Body Artists

FROM: Northwest Health District

DATE: January 2024

RE: 2024 Transition to State Body Art Rule

Dear Studio Owners and Artists,

We wanted to take this opportunity to provide additional information concerning plans for the transition from our local County Board of Health Body Art Ordinance that you currently operate under at this time to the new State Body Art Rule that will take effect October 6, 2024. It is our goal to have all studios permitted and testing for artists for state certification completed no later than June 30, 2024. This will allow a buffer of 3 additional months to ensure a smooth transition prior to the effective date of the state rule.

Please review the specific transition details and important dates below and note that all annual fees for current studios and individual local ordinance licenses will be waived for 2024 in an effort to assist with the transition process. Annual billing for studios and artists certifications will resume in January of 2025.

### **Overview: 2024 Fees, permits, and individual local ordinance license and state certifications**

#### Fees

- The \$200 annual studio fee will be waived for 2024.
- The \$50 annual body artists local ordinance license will be waived for 2024.

#### Permits

- Current studio permits issued under the local Board of Health Ordinance will be issued this year with an expiration date of **October 5, 2024** (Studios will be transitioned to the state permit prior to October 6, 2024).
- Future studio permits will continue to be issued by the local Board of Health under the authority of the state rule.

#### Individual Artist license/certifications

- Individual annual local ordinance artist license will be issued with an expiration date of **October 5, 2024** (artists will be transitioned to the state certification prior to October 6, 2024).
- After successful completion of the state exam(s) and additional certification requirements artist will be approved to work under the new certification until the renewal date of **January 1, 2025**.
- Effective after October 6, 2024, all future artist certifications will be issued by the State Department of Public Health, Environmental Health office.

## Required Exams for State Certifications

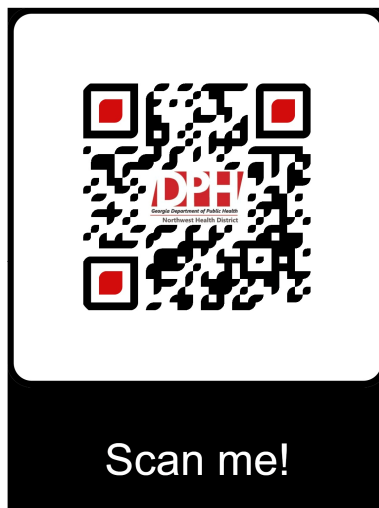
Artist Exam(s) – All Artist must successfully pass the state exam(s) and complete additional certification requirements on or before October 6, 2024

- Currently Schedule exam locations and dates
  - ❖ Floyd County (Rome) – February 6, 2024 / **Exam time 9:00am**  
Rome Civic Center, 400 Civic Center Drive, Rome
  - ❖ Catoosa County (Ringgold) – February 13, 2024 / **Exam time 9:00am**  
Catoosa County Learning Center, 36 Muscogee Trail, Ringgold
  - ❖ Paulding County (Dallas) - February 22, 2024 / **Exam time 10:00am**  
Earl Duncan Park @ Paulding Meadows, 472 Paulding Meadow Drive
- 3 separate exams will be offered based on individual artists area of practice at no cost to the artists for 2024
  - ✓ Tattooing
  - ✓ Piercing
  - ✓ Microblading

**Please do not delay in completing registration for one of the 3 exam locations in order to reserve your space for your preferred exam site and access to the state regulations needed for review prior to the exam.**

\*Registration access link <https://nwgapublichealth.org/artist-certification-testing-registration-form/> or got to our District web site [nwgapublichealth.org](https://nwgapublichealth.org) for access to the registration form and Body Art rules.

Or scan code to access



## **2025 Fees, permits, and individual artist certifications**

Fees, permits and artist certifications

- Body art studio permits will continue to be issued by your local level Board of Health along with annual fees at the rate of \$200/year.
- Annual artist certifications will be issued by the State Department of Public Health, Environmental Health office.

As the 1<sup>st</sup> step in the transition to the state rule, we have enclosed your 2024 studio permit and/or body artist local ordinance license. We encourage you to register for the location of your choice as soon as possible to complete the exam process and initiate the transition from the local ordinance artist license to the state certification which will allow you the flexibility to work within any county in the state of Georgia under a single certification.

For studio owners, we encourage you in preparation for the studio permit transfer from the current local ordinance to the state rule to ensure that your standard operating procedures are up to date and inclusive of the required minimum eleven categories noted below. In addition, if your studio operations require and utilize ultrasonic cleaning equipment and autoclaves each must meet the requirements noted below and documentation must be made available in order to confirm the equipment is being operated in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

Before being granted a permit, each Body Art Studio shall develop a written statement of policies and standard operating procedures that address:

- 1. Sterilization of instruments and equipment and Emergency Sterilization Procedures*
- 2. Body Artist and Employee Health*
- 3. Body Artist and Employee Drug and Alcohol Use*
- 4. Sanitizing areas and equipment between use*
- 5. Disposal of waste*
- 6. Record keeping*
- 7. Client screening*
- 8. Aftercare*
- 9. Exposure control plan*
- 10. Emergency plan for accidents that addresses first aid procedures; and*
- 11. Water Interruption Plan*

Ultra sonic clean units and autoclave requirements:

*An ultrasonic cleaning unit and operational Class B or S medical grade or other approved medical-grade autoclave is required and shall be provided in each Body Art Studio unless the use of pre-sterilized items and equipment or single-use items has been approved by the Health Authority.*

If you have any questions, please contact Shane Hendrix at 706-295-6650.