

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT TATTOOING AND PERMANENT  
MAKE-UP IN FLORIDA

- 1) How do I find someone to be my general supervisor?

Contact medical doctors, osteopathic physicians, or dentists in Florida.

- 2) Once I find a physician or dentist to provide general supervision, is there any paperwork they have to fill out?

There are not any specific forms to fill out, but they must aid in developing jointly written procedures regarding the medical condition for individuals to receive tattoos, treatment of routine minor problems resulting during or from tattooing, and detailed procedures to be followed in the event of emergency situations developing during the performance of or as a result of tattooing.

- 3) Does the general supervisor have to be in the same city as your tattoo shop?

No, but they must have an active medical, osteopathic, or dental license in Florida.

- 4) Does the general supervisor have to be present when you are tattooing?

No.

- 5) What does the general supervisor have to do in my shop?

a) The general supervisor, initially upon assuming duties and semiannually thereafter, must review and inspect the techniques, procedures, and equipment utilized by the tattooist in the performance of tattooing.

b) The general supervisor must provide semi-annual training for the tattooist in the areas of infection control, sterilization, and emergency procedures.

c) The general supervisor and the tattooist must develop jointly written procedures as stated in question 2. These written procedures must be maintained in a readily available location on the premises of the tattooist and a copy must be maintained by the general supervisor. The written procedures must be readily available for inspection and review by agents of any or all of the following: The Department of Health, the Board of Medicine, the Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, and the Board of Dentistry.

- 6) What proof do I need to show that I have a general supervisor? Is a letter acceptable?

The jointly written procedures specified in question 2 will serve as proof. A letter from the general supervisor does not meet this requirement.

- 7) I have a small spare bedroom in the house I rent that I would like to devote to tattooing. I'm not sure if that complies with whatever legal regulations exist. Is it legal for me to do this? Are there limitations, exceptions? What course of action should I take?

Being allowed to tattoo in your residence depends on receiving positive answers to all of the following four questions.

a) Would it be in compliance with local municipal and county ordinances, codes, and zoning restrictions?

b) Can you get an occupational license for this from the municipality or county, if one is required?

c) Would the biomedical waste inspector from the County Health Department that issued your biomedical waste permit be able to gain unannounced entry to the residence when required to inspect for purposes of compliance with statutory (section 381.0098, Florida Statutes) and rule (Chapter 64E-16, Florida Administrative Code) requirements of Florida's biomedical waste program? (Entry would be required for routine inspections as well as for investigating any complaints.)

d) Would it be allowed by the M.D., D.O., D.M.D. or D.D.S. who provides you the general supervision required by section 877.04, Florida Statutes and section 64B8-2.002, Florida Administrative Code?

8) Can I tattoo in other people's houses or in bars?

You can tattoo in those places if you can get positive answers to all four questions above. Also, you would need to apply for a biomedical waste permit that you could use in mobile fashion. You could not use a biomedical waste permit in mobile fashion if it was issued for use at a facility at a fixed address.

9) What do I have to do to remove tattoos in my shop with a laser?

In Florida, tattoo removal using a laser can only be done by a Florida-licensed physician or by a Physician Assistant (PA) under supervision, or an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP) working under a protocol signed by a Physician. Additional information can be obtained from the Board of Medicine's laser webpage at:  
[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/medical/me\\_laser.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/medical/me_laser.html)

10) Whom do I contact to get an occupational license?

Information about occupational licenses, also referred to as business tax receipts, can be obtained from your city (<http://www.stateofflorida.com/Portal/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=34>) as well as county (<http://www.stateofflorida.com/Portal/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=35>) government. For Occupational License Tax Information, see section 205.053 at the following link: <http://www.stateofflorida.com/Portal/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=29#OccupationalLicense>

11) Whom do I contact to find out about local ordinances, codes, and zoning restrictions?

Contact your city as well as county government at the links in number 10 above.