

☛ **Know the risks** of body art procedures and signs of infection.

Risks include:

- Allergic reaction to ink/dye or jewelry.
- Bloodborne infections such as hepatitis B or C.
- Scarring or keloid formation
- Nerve damage
- Decreased ability to identify skin melanoma at tattoo area

Sign of Infection include:

- Increased redness, swelling, soreness or pain
- Discharge or oozing of yellowish fluid
- Fever
- Heat or warmth at site
- Red streaks originating from site

☛ **Follow aftercare instructions** that are provided by the establishment.

By carefully following all aftercare instructions you will help prevent infection, ensure proper healing and protect your investment.



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ARE YOU CONSIDERING

## BODY ART?



**What you should know  
before you ink or pierce**

☛ **Body Art** can be a fun way to express your individuality but it is important that you understand your reasons and options. Getting body art should not be an impulse act done on a whim.

Although much more main stream than it use to be, there are still conservative attitudes and negative responses to body art.

Think about the future consequences. Will you still like your body art choice in 10, 15 or 20 years from now? How will a prospective employer view that nose piercing or tattoo?

Tattooing and permanent cosmetics involve the use of needles to place ink, dye or other pigment into or under the skin or mucosa, so removing them can be a lengthy, costly and painful process that may not even work.

Even after removing a tattoo or piercing jewelry, the skin may not go back to it original appearance.

☛ **Do your homework** before you get that body art procedure.

Give yourself time and think about what you want done. Remember, it will be on your body for a lifetime so don't rush into it.

Shop around. Talk with several professional artists and view their work before selecting someone. Get recommendations from others who have had body art work done.

☛ **Resist the urge** to “do-it-yourself”, have a friend do it, or have it done at a party.

Professional artists have the education, experience and equipment to properly perform body art procedures.

The non-professional rarely has the knowledge needed to avoid blood vessels and nerves under the skin, the experience to perform quality work, or the equipment to sterilize instruments.

In Macomb County, all body art facilities must be inspected and hold a valid permit. Performing body art procedures anywhere other than a regulated facility is prohibited.

☛ **Check out** the body art facility and ask questions.

What is the artist's experience and training?

Does the facility look clean and organized?

Are re-usable instruments cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner and sterilized in an autoclave?

Are single-use needles used? Are they sterile, individually packaged and kept sealed until opened in front of the client?

Do artists frequently wash their hands and use disposal gloves?

Are procedure surfaces disinfected before and after use?

Is ink dispensed from the bulk container to a single-use cup and disposed after use?

Is piercing jewelry sterile, individually packaged and kept sealed until opened in front of client?