



Guidance on Processing Body Artist Certifications

Body Artists are considered practitioners who perform tattooing, piercing, or microblading. Accordingly, Chapter 511-3-8, Rules, and Regulations for Body Art, does not apply to a physician or osteopath licensed under O.C.G.A. Chapter 34 of Title 43 or to a technician acting under the direct supervision of such licensed physician or osteopath.

If artists currently hold a local body artist permit or if no local permit is required and artists currently practice in a permitted studio, upon the effective date of this Chapter, October 6, 2023, those artists will be considered existing artists. Chapter 511-3-8, Rules and Regulations for Body Art, allows an existing body artist a maximum of twelve months (12) to meet the applicable requirements to obtain a Department of Public Health (DPH) certification to practice body art.

New artists applying for certification on or after the rules effective date of October 6, 2023, will be required to obtain a DPH Body Artist Certification before they begin to practice in a permitted studio.

Local County Health Department (LCHD), Environmental Health (EH) Offices should notify artists on the pending certification changes and provide guidance on how to obtain a DPH, Body Artist Certification or direct artists inquiries to the DPH, Environment Health Section (EHS), Body Art Program for additional guidance. All body artists must pass a Body Artist Exam given by the LCHD, EH Office. There is an exam for each body art procedure: tattooing, piercing, and microblading.

Steps in Processing an Artist Application:

1. An applicant must be at least 18 years of age.
2. An applicant must schedule to take the Body Artist Exam(s) with a LCHD, EH Office
3. Pay applicable Body Artist Exam(s) fees.
4. Pass the exam(s) with a score of at least 70 points.
5. When an applicant passes the exam(s), the Local County Health Department will provide the DPH Environmental Health Section with the applicant's passing grade sheet(s) with their personal contact information including name, address, phone number and email. Please write clearly and provide a working email address and phone number on the sheet.
6. Upon receipt of the examination sheet with the applicants contact information, DPH EHS will send an online application through a third-party processor called DocuSign to the applicants' email address.
 - a. DocuSign is an electronic signature portal that allows users a way to send and sign documents with confidence.
 - b. DocuSign will not require an artist to download any special application or create a password to access the DPH application.
 - c. DPH is not currently charging a fee for an artist certification under the new rules.
7. Please use the "Review Document" link in this email to open, review, complete and sign the Georgia Department of Public Health Body Artist Certification Application.
8. An applicant will only be required to click on the link to gain access to the fillable Body Artist Certification application in the portal.

9. An applicant must complete the fields in the application and upload the required documents for approval by DPH, EHS.
10. The following documents must be uploaded with the application into the DocuSign processing portal:
 - a. Copy of a Government Issued ID
 - b. [Signed and Notarized Verification of Residency Form](#)
 - c. Bloodborne Pathogen Training Certificate
 - d. First Aid Training Certificate
 - e. CPR Training Certificate
 - f. Hepatitis B Vaccination Status which can be:
 - i. Proof of Hepatitis B Vaccination
 - ii. Written Laboratory Evidence of Immunity
 - iii. Healthcare Provider Issues Contraindicated for Medical Reasons
 - iv. [Signed Declination of Hepatitis B Vaccination](#)
11. Applicants will receive a completed copy of their application once they fill out all required fields, sign, and click the 'FINISH' button.
 - a. Ensure all the information is complete and all documents are current before uploading.
 - b. If the required fields are not completed, the portal will not allow the application to be sent.
 - c. The DocuSign portal will allow you to save an incomplete application but once it is finished and sent it cannot be changed by the applicant.
 - d. The applicant may only view and print the application from the link after submission.
12. Upon receipt of a completed application, DPH EHS will check the application for accuracy. Training documents shall not expire within 6 months of the application submission date.
13. Once approved, DPH, EHS will email the Body Artist Certification certificate to the applicant's email address. If there are any deficiencies, DPH will notify the applicant by phone or email to correct the issue(s).
14. Applicants must print the DPH, Body Artist Certification certificate. A copy of the Body Artist Certification shall be posted where it may be readily observed by clients.

Guest and Temporary Body Artist Permits

The Rules and Regulations for Body Art allow for Guest and Temporary Body Artist Permits. These are to be issued by the Local County Health Department where the individual wishes to work. If you would like to apply for a Guest or Temporary Body Artist Permit, please contact the Local County Health Department, Environmental Health Office.

Contact Information

Please contact the LCHD, EH Office or the DPH, EHS, Body Art Program at bodyart@dph.ga.gov for more information on obtaining a Body Artist Certification.

List of LCHD, EH Offices

<https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/environmental-health-county-phone-numbers/download>