

Byelaws Relating to Skin Piercing (including Tattooing, Acupuncture, Ear piercing and Electrolysis)

Stroud District Council has adopted legislation requiring the registration of individuals that carryout skin piercing activities (including tattooing, semi-permanent make up, acupuncture, body piercing and electrolysis) and the premises from which they operate. Byelaws have also been made which aim to ensure the cleanliness of registered premises and their fittings and also the registered persons and persons assisting them, and the cleansing and/or sterilisation of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the business. The Byelaws were made under sections 14(7) and 15(7) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1982 and are reproduced below:-

1. Interpretation:

Certain words used in the Byelaws have specific meanings. These are defined below:-

The “Act” means the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1982;

“Client” means any person undergoing treatment;

“Operator” means any person giving treatment;

“Premises” means any person registered under Part VIII of the Act;

“Proprietor” means any person registered under Part VIII of the Act;

“Treatment” means any operation in effecting tattooing, acupuncture, ear piercing and electrolysis

The “Treatment Area” means any part of the premises where treatment is given to clients.

2. For the purposes of securing the cleanliness of premises and fittings therein a proprietor shall ensure that:-

- a. All internal walls, doors, windows, partitions, floors and floor coverings, and ceilings are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively.
- b. The treatment area is used solely for giving treatment.
- c. The floor of the treatment area is provided with a smooth impervious surface.
- d. All waste material, and other litter, arising from the treatment, is placed in suitable covered receptacles, which are washable and leak-proof, or use leak-proof liner bag. The receptacles shall be emptied, or the bags changed, at least once every working day, or more frequently as necessary, and the material disposed of safely. Where liners are not used, the receptacles shall then be cleaned.
- e. All needles used in treatment are placed after use in separate covered and leak-proof re-useable boxes, or disposable needle boxes designed for the purpose. Where re-useable boxes are used they shall be emptied at least once every working day or more frequently as necessary, and the contents disposed of safely or sterilised for re-use, as appropriate.

The box shall then be sterilised. Where needle boxes are used they shall be disposed of safely at suitable intervals.

- f. All furniture and fittings in the premises are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively.
 - g. All tables, couches and seats used by clients in the treatment area, and any surface on which the items specified in 3b below are placed immediately prior to treatment, have a smooth impervious surface which is wiped down with a suitable disinfectant between the treatment of different clients, and thoroughly cleaned at the end of each working day.
 - h. Where tables or couches are used, they shall be covered by disposable paper sheet which shall be changed for each client.
 - i. A notice or notices reading "No Smoking" are prominently displayed within the treatment area.
3. For the purpose of securing the cleansing and, so far as is appropriate, the sterilisation of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the treatment:
- a. An operator shall ensure that, before use in connection with treatment, any gown, wrap or other protective clothing, paper or other covering, towel, cloth or other such articles used in the treatment:
 - i. is clean and in good repair, and, so far as is appropriate, is sterile;
 - ii. has not previously been used in connection with any other client unless it consists of a material which can be and has been adequately cleaned and, so far as is appropriate, sterilised.
 - b. An operator shall ensure that:
 - i. any needle, metal instrument, or other item of equipment, used in treatment or for handling instruments and needles used in treatment, is in a sterile condition and kept sterile until it is used;

Tattooing only:

- ii. all dyes used for tattooing are bacteriologically clean and inert;
 - iii. the containers used to hold the dyes for each customer are either disposed of at the end of each session of treatments or are sterilised before re-use.
- c. A proprietor shall provide -
- i. adequate facilities and equipment for the purpose of sterilisation (unless pre-sterilised items are used) and of cleansing, as required in pursuance of these byelaws;
 - ii. sufficient and safe gas points and/or electrical items outlets to enable compliance with these byelaws;
 - iii. an adequate constant supply of clean hot and cold water readily available at all times on the premises;
 - iv. adequate storage for all items mentioned in byelaw 3a and 3b above so that those items shall be properly stored in a clean and suitable place so as to avoid, as far as possible, the risk of contamination;

4. For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of operators:
 - a. An operator whilst giving treatment shall ensure that -
 - i. his hands and nails are clean and nails kept short;
 - ii. he is wearing clean and washable clothing, or alternatively a disposable covering that has not previously been used in connection with any other client;
 - iii. he keeps any open boil, sore, cut or open wound on an exposed part of his body effectively covered by an impermeable dressing;
 - iv. he does not smoke or consume food or drink;
 - b. A proprietor shall provide -
 - i. suitable and sufficient washing facilities for the sole use of operators, such facilities to have hot and cold water, sanitising soap or detergent, and a nail brush;
 - ii. suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for operators;

Note - The following does not form part of the byelaws

- a. Proprietors shall take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with these byelaws by persons working on the premises. Section 16(9) of the Act lays down that a registered person shall cause to be prominently displayed on the premises a copy of these byelaws and a copy of any certificate of registration issued to him under Part VIII of the Act.
- b. Section 16(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1982 provides that any person who offends against any of these byelaws shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £400. If the convicted person is registered under Part VIII of the Act, the Court may, instead of or in addition to imposing a fine, order the suspension or cancellation of his registration, and of the registration of the premises in which the offence was committed if such premises are occupied by the person so convicted. Section 16(11) of the Act provides that it shall be a defence for the person charged to prove that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.
- c. Nothing in these byelaws shall extend to the carrying on of the business of tattooing, acupuncture, ear piercing and electrolysis by or under the supervision of a person who is registered as a medical practitioner or to premises on which any such business is carried on by or under the supervision of such a person.

These Byelaws were confirmed by the Secretary of State for Social Services on 20 th June, 1986 and came into operation on 1st August, 1986..

Health and Wellbeing Service
Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill
Ebley Wharf
Stroud
Glos
GL5 4UB

Tel: 01453 754478