

## ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

# Use of Piercing Devices in Canada and Select International Jurisdictions

Published: August 2024

## Key Findings

- Some jurisdictions expressly permit the use of piercing devices intended to pierce the nose or other body parts.<sup>1-6</sup>
- No jurisdictions permit ear piercing devices to be used to pierce body parts other than the ear.
- The majority of jurisdictions also place restrictions on the use of ear piercing guns to pierce cartilage.
- Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) guidance varies when it comes to the use of piercing devices on body parts other than the ear lobe.

## Background

Body modification through the use of body piercings has become a common and socially acceptable practice. Conte et al. state, “the prevalence of body piercing in the general population is estimated to be as high as 50%.”<sup>7</sup> Increasing in popularity are ear piercings involving the cartilaginous parts of the ear. van Wijk et al., share an estimate that 30% of all piercings in Europe involve the upper, cartilaginous area of the ear.<sup>8</sup> The injury and infection risks of cartilage piercings differ from earlobe piercings<sup>9,10</sup> which has resulted in guidance that restricts the methods through which ear cartilage may be pierced.<sup>11,12</sup>

Public Health Ontario (PHO) conducted a jurisdictional scan to determine the restrictions on the use of piercing devices in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand.

## Methods

To identify relevant evidence on this topic, scientific literature searches were conducted by PHO Library Services in the following bibliographic databases: MEDLINE (Ovid platform), Embase (Ovid Platform), and CINAHL Complete (EBSCOhost platform). Searches were designed to retrieve articles containing at least one search term related to Piercing Methods/Devices combined with at least one search term related to the Risk of Infection or Disease Transmission (including blood-borne and bacterial infections). Searches also retrieved articles containing at least one search term related to Piercing Methods/Devices combined with at least one search term related to Cartilage (including nose and ear), or other Facial or Body Parts/Piercing Sites. The MEDLINE search strategy was adapted for translation into the two supplementary databases searched. The database searches were run on May 15 and May 24, 2024.

A total of 299 unique search results were retrieved after duplicate records were removed using bibliographic management software. The search was limited to English language articles only with no publication date limiter applied.

To identify grey literature on this topic, several approaches were used. Searches were run using a general search engine (Google), targeted searches of jurisdictions relevant to the research question, and custom search engines programmed to search: (1) the websites of Canadian federal, provincial, and regional public health departments, and (2) the websites of selected international public health agencies with a focus on agencies located in Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. The searches were run between May 2, 2024 and May 23, 2024. Since it is not practical or useful to review all the results retrieved by a search engine query, a limit of 50 results per query (ranked by relevancy) was manually enforced when conducting the grey literature search.

This search was limited to publicly facing documents available on the internet. Guidance documents and regulations were limited to the national, provincial, territorial, and state level. Jurisdictions that regulate or provide guidance at the local level would not have been captured. Many jurisdictions may have policies and interpretations of their guidance documents that are internally facing and thus were not captured.

## Jurisdictional Scan

There is variation in how ear piercing is treated in the published guidance documents and regulations/administrative/criminal codes across various jurisdictions. While some jurisdictions have explicit guidance related to the use of ear piercing devices, others have exemptions from body piercing requirements when ear piercing is done in a specific manner. While the technique required for body piercing is often not specified, when a jurisdiction provides a regulatory exemption for ear piercing, this is interpreted as a restriction on the use of ear piercing devices for the purposes of this document.

Some jurisdictions restrict piercing to the earlobe or fleshy part of the ear, others permit the outer portion of the ear (helix) while prohibiting other forms of cartilage piercing. While statements specific to ear piercing devices are common, only a few jurisdictions have published statements that reference mechanical devices that are exclusively used to pierce other anatomical locations, such as the navel or nostril. Guidance that specifies ear piercing devices is considered to be specific to those devices and not transferable to devices that are intended for piercing other anatomical locations. For example, a guidance statement that reads, "Ear piercing devices should be used to pierce lower ear lobes only and may not be used to pierce the nose" is interpreted to only restrict ear piercing devices from piercing the nose but does not restrict the use of nose piercing devices to pierce the nose. Guidance that refers to piercing devices in anatomy agnostic terms is considered to be applicable to other body parts for the purposes of this document.

## Canada

Within Canada, best practices exist at the federal level. These best practices state, "The ear piercing gun should be used only for piercing the fleshy part of the ear lobes. The gun is not suitable for piercing other parts of the body such as the navel, the nasal cartilage, or the cartilage areas of the ear."<sup>12</sup> Where a province does not provide specific guidance on this topic, this is assumed to be the default position; however, not all provinces regulate ear piercing, or personal service settings in general, so this may not always be enforced.

Statements on ear piercing devices were found for seven out of ten Canadian provinces, and one out of three territories. No specific guidance was found for New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut, Quebec, or Yukon.

All provinces with statements on ear piercing devices are in line with the federal guidance and prohibit the piercing of cartilage. Only one province, British Columbia, directly addresses other piercing devices and permits the use of nostril piercing devices within the scope of their MIFU.<sup>3</sup>

Two provinces provide exemptions for locations that only pierce earlobes with mechanical devices. Nova Scotia provides a full regulatory exemption for facilities that only pierce earlobes.<sup>13</sup> Saskatchewan does not have a regulation for personal service settings but treats the piercing of earlobes as non-invasive.<sup>14</sup> This means they are not routinely inspected and fewer sections of the guidance document apply to them.

The restrictions placed on piercing devices are summarized in the table below and the exact wordings are contained under [Statements on the Use of Ear Piercing Devices](#).

**Table 1: Summary of body parts permitted to be pierced with a piercing device in Canada**

Jurisdiction	Earlobe	Outer Portion of the Ear	Other Ear Cartilage	Nose	Other Body Parts
Alberta <sup>15</sup>	Yes	No	No	-	-
British Columbia <sup>3</sup>	Yes	No	No	Yes	-
Manitoba <sup>16</sup>	Yes	No	No	-	-
Nova Scotia <sup>13</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
Northwest Territories <sup>17</sup>	Yes	No	No	-	-
Ontario <sup>11</sup>	Yes	No	No	-	-
Prince Edward Island <sup>18</sup>	Yes	No	No	No	No
Saskatchewan <sup>14</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-

\*Denotes that this restriction is in the form of a regulatory exemption

## United States

Regulations for piercing in the United States exist primarily at the state level and federal guidance and do not speak to anatomical restrictions on use.<sup>19</sup>The Food and Drug Administration’s position is that ear piercing devices should be restricted to individuals with medical training but this has not been applied at the state level.<sup>19</sup>Some jurisdictions have additional requirements at the county level and a lack of guidance at the state level does not necessarily imply an absence of rules regarding the use of piercing devices.

The majority of states treat ear piercing as separate from body piercing. The only guidance around the use of ear piercing devices that they provide is in relation to exemptions from body art or body piercing legislation and do not provide any regulatory statements or guidance specific to ear piercing. The states that have specific guidance related to the use of ear piercing devices are Alaska,<sup>20</sup> Arizona,<sup>21</sup> Arkansas,<sup>22</sup>

Colorado,<sup>23</sup> Kansas,<sup>24</sup> Kentucky,<sup>25</sup> Louisiana,<sup>26</sup> Massachusetts,<sup>27</sup> Minnesota,<sup>28</sup> Mississippi,<sup>29</sup> New Hampshire,<sup>30</sup> New Jersey,<sup>31</sup> Oklahoma,<sup>32</sup> Oregon,<sup>33</sup> South Dakota,<sup>34</sup> Texas,<sup>35</sup> and Vermont.<sup>36</sup> Guidance or legislation that specifically addresses piercing devices was not located for California, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania or Rhode Island.

The restrictions placed on piercing devices are summarized in the table below and the exact wordings are contained in under [Statements on the Use of Ear Piercing Devices](#).

**Table 2: Summary of Body Parts Permitted to be Pierced with a Piercing Device in the United States**

Jurisdiction	Earlobe	Outer Portion of the Ear	Other Ear Cartilage	Nose	Other Body Parts
Alabama <sup>37</sup>	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	-	-
Alaska <sup>20</sup>	Yes	Yes	No	-	-
Arizona <sup>21</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Arkansas <sup>22</sup>	Yes	No	No	No	No
Colorado <sup>23</sup>	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Connecticut <sup>38</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	No*	No*
Delaware <sup>39</sup>	Yes*	Yes*	No	-	-
Florida <sup>40</sup>	Yes*	Yes*	No*	No*	No*
Georgia <sup>41</sup>	Yes*	No	No	-	-
Idaho <sup>42</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
Illinois <sup>43</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
Indiana <sup>44</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
Kansas <sup>24</sup>	Yes	No	No	No	No
Kentucky <sup>25</sup>	Yes	No	No	-	-
Louisiana <sup>26</sup>	Yes	No	No	No	No
Maine <sup>45</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
Massachusetts <sup>27</sup>	Yes	No	No	-	-
Michigan <sup>46</sup>	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	-	-

Jurisdiction	Earlobe	Outer Portion of the Ear	Other Ear Cartilage	Nose	Other Body Parts
Minnesota <sup>28</sup>	Yes	No	No	-	-
Mississippi <sup>29</sup>	Yes	Yes	No	-	-
Missouri <sup>47</sup>	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	-	-
Montana <sup>48</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
Nebraska <sup>49</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
Nevada <sup>50</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
New Hampshire <sup>30</sup>	Yes	No	No	No	No
New Jersey <sup>31</sup>	Yes	Yes	No	-	-
New Mexico <sup>51</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
New York <sup>52</sup>	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	-	-
North Dakota <sup>53</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
Ohio <sup>54</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
Oklahoma <sup>32</sup>	Yes	No	No	-	-
Oregon <sup>33</sup>	Yes	No	No	-	-
South Carolina <sup>55</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
South Dakota <sup>34</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-
Tennessee <sup>56</sup>	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	-	-
Texas <sup>35</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-
Utah <sup>57</sup>	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	-	-
Vermont <sup>36</sup>	Yes	No	No	-	-
Virginia <sup>58</sup>	Yes*	Yes*	No*	-	-
Washington <sup>59</sup>	Yes*	No*	No*	-	-
West Virginia <sup>60</sup>	Yes*	Yes*	No*	-	-
Wisconsin <sup>61</sup>	Yes*	Yes*	Yes*	-	-

Jurisdiction	Earlobe	Outer Portion of the Ear	Other Ear Cartilage	Nose	Other Body Parts
Wyoming <sup>62</sup>	Yes*	Yes*	No*	-	-

\*Denotes that this restriction is in the form of a regulatory exemption

## United Kingdom

Guidance and legislation related to ear piercing was found for England, Scotland, and Wales.<sup>1,2,4</sup> England’s guidance is in the form of a guidance document that contains model bylaws for counties. Scotland’s guidance is found in the form of a local implementation guide for an order. Wales’ guidance is found in the form of a draft regulation that has completed its consultation period as their current legislation does not address this topic.<sup>63</sup> Northern Ireland has adopted most of the guidance used in England but it does not contain model bylaws and no statements regarding the body parts that piercing devices can be used on are present.<sup>64</sup>

The restrictions placed on piercing devices are summarized in the table below and the exact wordings are contained under [Statements on the Use of Ear Piercing Devices](#).

**Table 3: Summary of Body Parts Permitted to be Pierced with a Piercing Device in the United Kingdom**

Jurisdiction	Earlobe	Outer Portion of the Ear	Other Ear Cartilage	Nose	Other Body Parts
England <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Scotland <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Wales <sup>4</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

## Australia

Statements referencing ear piercing were found for five out of six Australian states and two out of three internal territories. The jurisdictions that do not have a statement related to ear piercing devices are Victoria and the Jervis Bay Territory.

While a statement on ear piercing devices was not found for Victoria in their 2020 guidance,<sup>65</sup> the 2004 version of their guidance stated, “Stud guns are designed for earlobes only, while nostril piercing guns are used for the nose. These guns may damage body tissue when used on other parts of the body.”<sup>66</sup>

The restrictions placed on piercing devices are summarized in the table below and the exact wordings are contained under [Statements on the Use of Ear Piercing Devices](#).

**Table 4: Summary of Body Parts Permitted to be Pierced with a Piercing Device in Australia**

Jurisdiction	Earlobe	Outer Portion of the Ear	Other Ear Cartilage	Nose	Other Body Parts
Australian Capital Territory <sup>67</sup>	Yes	No	No	-	-
New South Wales <sup>68</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	-
Northern Territory <sup>69</sup>	Yes	No	No	No	No
Queensland <sup>5</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
Southern Australia <sup>70</sup>	Yes	No	No	-	-
Tasmania <sup>71</sup>	Yes	Yes	No	-	-
Western Australia <sup>6</sup>	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes

## New Zealand

National guidance was located for New Zealand. The restrictions placed on piercing devices are summarized in the table below and the exact wordings are contained under [Statements on the Use of Ear Piercing Devices](#).

**Table 5: Summary of Body Parts Permitted to be Pierced with a Piercing Device in New Zealand**

Jurisdiction	Earlobe	Outer Portion of the Ear	Other Ear Cartilage	Nose	Other Body Parts
New Zealand <sup>72</sup>	Yes	No	No	No	No

## International IPAC Guidance

Several jurisdictions provide detailed guidance on the use of piercing devices to pierce ear, nose, or other body parts.

British Columbia is the only jurisdiction in Canada that explicitly permits piercing devices to be used for nose piercing. Their guidance indicates that ear piercing devices can only be used on the earlobe. Nose piercing instruments can be used to pierce noses but nose piercing devices cannot be used on other parts of the body.<sup>3</sup>

New Jersey permits the earlobe and trailing edge of the ear to be pierced, “using a pre-sterilized single use stud and clasp ear piercing system following the manufacturer’s instructions.” It does not permit high-impact devices to be used to pierce the trailing edge of the ear. It requires licensing, parental consent, record keeping, the completion of a training program, and a requirement to perform three earlobe and three cartilage piercings under the direct supervision of an operator before performing ear piercings independently.<sup>31</sup>

England permits piercing devices to be used on, “the lobe or upper flat cartilage of the ear” and “either side of the nose in the mid-crease area above the nostril.”<sup>2</sup> Parts of the device that touch the client must be sterile, single-use disposable and fitted with jewellery that indicates the part of the body it is intended for. English guidance recommends that only cartridge style ear piercing devices be used.<sup>2</sup>

Scotland permits the lobe and upper flat cartilage of the ear to be pierced using a pre-sterilized cartridge system that indicates the part of the body for which it is intended. Other parts of the ear cannot be pierced unless a body piercing technique is used. They also permit the use of systems designed to pierce the nose but specify that, “It is not appropriate to use either a system or jewellery intended for nose piercing to pierce the earlobe or cartilage.” Staff using these devices require training in the use of the device.<sup>1</sup>

Wales’ draft regulation allows the use of cartridge systems for body piercing. Cartridges and jewellery must be sterile and indicate the part of the body for which it is intended.<sup>4</sup>

Queensland permits the use of closed ear piercing devices for ears and noses provided that they are used in accordance with their MIFU. Ear piercing devices are only permitted to be used on the ears and nose piercing devices are only permitted to be used on the nose.<sup>5</sup>

Tasmania restricts the use of piercing devices to the external ear. They recommend the use of cartridge based piercing devices and pre-sterilized jewellery. Specific to cartilage piercing, clients are to be advised that cartilage piercings will take longer to heal.<sup>71</sup>

Western Australia permits the use of piercing devices to pierce the earlobe, nose, and navel. Devices can only be used on the body part for which they are intended. They also indicate that ear piercing devices should not be used on the “upper cartilaginous parts of the ear” and further specify that ear piercing studs and clasps must not be used anywhere else on the body other than the lobe of the ear. They indicate that operators must have adequate knowledge and training on how to operate a piercing device.<sup>6</sup>

## Statements on the Use of Ear Piercing Devices

**Table 6: Exact Wordings of Statements Related to Ear Piercing Devices in Canada**

Jurisdiction	Statement	Source
Alberta <sup>15</sup>	Ear piercing guns should only be used to pierce the ear lobe. They should not be used to pierce other areas of the body because this may cause tissue damage and increase your risk of infection.	Factsheet
British Columbia <sup>3</sup>	Use earlobe piercing guns/instruments on the fleshy part of the ear (earlobe) only. Do not use on cartilage. Use nose piercing guns/instruments only for noses and not for any other body part.	Guidance Document
Manitoba <sup>16</sup>	Persons providing tattooing, piercing, and electrolysis should be following the Health Canada Infection Prevention and Control Practices For Personal Services: Tattooing, Ear/Body Piercing, And Electrolysis.	Guidance Document



Jurisdiction	Statement	Source
Nova Scotia <sup>13</sup>	Ear piercing instruments shall not be used on any other part of the body except the ear lobes (fleshy part only)	Guidance Document
Northwest Territories <sup>17</sup>	A person who pierces only the lobe of the ear with a pre-sterilized single-use cartridge ear-piercing system is exempt from these regulations, and this service is not a body art service.	Legislation
Ontario <sup>11</sup>	Ear piercing guns/devices are not to be used on any other part of the body except the ear lobes (fleshy part only)	Guidance Document
Prince Edward Island <sup>18</sup>	Piercing guns must be used on the earlobe only.	Guidance Document
Saskatchewan <sup>14</sup>	Ear piercing (fleshy lobe only with gun) is considered a lower risk invasive procedure and classified as a non-invasive personal service.	Guidance Document

**Table 7: Exact Wordings of Statements Related to Ear Piercing Devices in the United States**

Jurisdiction	Statement	Source
Alabama <sup>37</sup>	Piercing of the ear using pre-sterilized single use stud and clasp ear piercing systems is exempt	Legislation
Alaska <sup>20</sup>	<p>Unless an individual is licensed by the board to perform body piercing, an individual performing an ear piercing procedure must use an ear piercing instrument.</p> <p>The ear piercing instrument:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. may not be used for piercing any part of the body other than the ear lobe or trailing edge of the ear; and</li> <li>2. must be made of plastic, stainless steel, or another material that can be disinfected.</li> </ol>	Legislation
Arizona <sup>21</sup>	(Prohibits) Using a piercing gun or system for any body part other than an ear.	Legislation
Arkansas <sup>22</sup>	Critical item leading to closure: Using a piercing gun to pierce any parts of a person's body other than an earlobe;	Legislation
Colorado <sup>23</sup>	Stud-and-clasp systems shall be used according to manufacturer's instructions and shall only be used on the earlobe or the outer perimeter of the ear	Legislation

Jurisdiction	Statement	Source
Connecticut <sup>38</sup>	For purposes of this subsection, “body piercing” means piercing or creating a channel through any part of the body other than the ear lobe for the purpose of inserting a decorative object, and “ear lobe” means the lower portion of the auricle having no cartilage.	Legislation
Delaware <sup>39</sup>	Individuals who pierce only the outer perimeter and lobe of the ear using a pre-sterilized single use stud and clasp ear piercing system are exempt from these (body art) Regulations. Individuals who use ear piercing systems must conform to the manufacturer's directions on use.  Under no circumstances shall ear piercing studs and clasps be used anywhere on the body other than the outer perimeter and lobe of the ear.	Legislation
Florida <sup>40</sup>	“Body piercing” does not include the use of a mechanized, pre-sterilized ear-piercing system that penetrates the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear or both.	Legislation
Georgia <sup>41</sup>	Individuals who pierce only the lobe of the ear (and not the ear cartilage, nose or eyebrows, etc.) with a pre-sterilized single-use stud-and clasp ear piercing system are exempt from these regulations, provided that such ear-piercing systems conform to the manufacturer’s directions on use and applicable FDA requirements.  Under no circumstance shall ear piercing studs and clasp be used anywhere on the body other than the lobe of the ear unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer.	Legislation
Idaho <sup>42</sup>	"Body piercing" means the perforation of any human body part other than an earlobe for the purpose of inserting jewelry or other decoration or for some other nonmedical purpose.	Legislation
Illinois <sup>43</sup>	"Ear Piercing" means the puncturing of the non-cartilaginous portion or lobe of the ear with a pre-sterilized single-use stud-and-clasp ear-piercing system, following manufacturer's instructions. Under no circumstances shall ear piercing studs and clasps be used anywhere on the body other than the non-cartilaginous portion and lobe of the ear.	Legislation
Indiana <sup>44</sup>	"body piercing" means the perforation of any human body part other than an earlobe for the purpose of inserting jewelry or other decoration or for some other nonmedical purpose	Legislation

Jurisdiction	Statement	Source
Kansas <sup>24</sup>	Use of the piercing gun to pierce shall be prohibited on all parts of the body except the ear lobe	Legislation
Kentucky <sup>25</sup>	Ear piercing studs and clasps shall not be used under any circumstances anywhere on the body other than the lobe of the ear.	Legislation
Louisiana <sup>26</sup>	Use of a piercing gun to pierce shall be prohibited on all parts of the body, including the outer cartilage perimeter of the ear with the exception of the ear lobe.	Legislation
Maine <sup>45</sup>	"Body piercing" does not, for the purpose of this chapter, include piercing an earlobe with a disposable, single-use stud or solid needle that is applied using a mechanical device to force the needle or stud through the earlobe. Piercing in an area other than the earlobe, located at the lower end of the ear, is "body piercing" as defined in this subsection and subject to the licensing requirements of this chapter.	Legislation
Massachusetts <sup>27</sup>	No practitioner shall use an ear piercing system on any part of the client's body other than the lobe of the ear.	Guidance Document
Michigan <sup>46</sup>	Facilities and individuals that only provide ear piercing services are exempt from PA 375.	Legislation
Minnesota <sup>28</sup>	The single-use stud-and-clasps ear-piercing system should not be used to pierce any part of the body besides the lobe of the ear.	Consumer Guidance
Mississippi <sup>29</sup>	A piercing gun may only be used on the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear, and may not be used on any other part of the body.	Legislation
Missouri <sup>47</sup>	"Body piercing", the perforation of human tissue other than an ear for a nonmedical purpose.	Legislation
Montana <sup>48</sup>	"Ear lobe piercing" means the puncturing of the ear lobe, but not the ear cartilage, to create a permanent hole for cosmetic purposes.	Legislation
Nebraska <sup>49</sup>	Body piercing means puncturing the skin of a person by aid of needles or other instruments designed or used to puncture the skin for the purpose of inserting removable jewelry or other objects through the human body, except that body piercing does not include puncturing the external part of the human earlobe.	Legislation

Jurisdiction	Statement	Source
Nevada <sup>50</sup>	That has obtained an exemption from the health authority and limits the invasive body decoration procedures performed at the establishment to the piercing of the earlobe only with a pre-sterilized single-use stud and clasp ear-piercing system used in compliance with the manufacturers' directions and all applicable requirements of the United States Food and Drug Administration.	Legislation
New Hampshire <sup>30</sup>	The use of piercing guns only for the piercing of ear lobes	Legislation
New Jersey <sup>31</sup>	Ear piercing instruments shall not be used for piercing any part of the body other than the ear lobes and trailing edge of the ear.	Legislation
New Mexico <sup>51</sup>	A person who pierces only the outer perimeter of the ear, not including any cartilage, using a pre-sterilized encapsulated single use stud ear piercing system, implementing appropriate procedures, is exempt from the requirements of the Body Art Safe Practices Act.	Legislation
New York <sup>52</sup>	"Body piercing" shall mean the piercing of any part of the body, except the ear.	Legislation
North Dakota <sup>53</sup>	"Ear piercing" means the puncturing of the non-cartilaginous perimeter or lobe of the ear with a pre-sterilized single-use stud-and-clasp ear-piercing system following manufacturer's instructions. Under no circumstances shall ear piercing studs and clasps be used anywhere on the body other than the outer perimeter and lobe of the ear.	Legislation
Ohio <sup>54</sup>	Ear piercing gun" means a mechanical device that pierces the ear by forcing a disposable, single-use stud or solid needle through the earlobe.	Legislation
Oklahoma <sup>32</sup>	An ear piercing gun shall not be used on any body part other than the ear lobe, which does not contain cartilage.	Legislation
Oregon <sup>33</sup>	An earlobe piercing system may only be used to pierce the earlobe. Use of an earlobe piercing system on other parts of the body or ear is prohibited.	Legislation
South Carolina <sup>55</sup>	Body piercing" for the purpose of this chapter does not include piercing an ear lobe with a disposable, single-use stud or solid needle that is applied using a mechanical device to force the needle or stud through the ear lobe.	Legislation

Jurisdiction	Statement	Source
South Dakota <sup>34</sup>	An ear piercing gun may only be used to apply studs in a patron's ears, following manufacturer's instructions. The use of an ear piercing gun to apply a stud or any other jewelry to other areas of the body is prohibited.	Legislation
Tennessee <sup>56</sup>	Body piercing includes ear piercing, except when the ear piercing procedure is performed with an ear piercing gun.	Legislation
Texas <sup>35</sup>	An ear piercing gun shall not be used to pierce any other part of the body besides the ear.	Legislation
Utah <sup>57</sup>	"Body piercing" means the creation of an opening in the body, excluding the ear, for the purpose of inserting jewelry or other decoration.	Legislation
Vermont <sup>36</sup>	Piercing guns should not be used on any part of the body except for the ear lobe (fleshy part).	Legislation
Virginia <sup>58</sup>	"Body piercing" does not include the use of a mechanized, pre-sterilized ear-piercing system that penetrates the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear or both.	Legislation
Washington <sup>59</sup>	"Body piercing" does not include the use of stud and clasp piercing systems to pierce the earlobe in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and applicable United States food and drug administration requirements.	Legislation
West Virginia <sup>60</sup>	"Body piercing" means to puncture the skin for the purpose of creating a hole to be decorated or adorned, but does not include the use of a mechanized, pre-sterilized ear-piercing system that penetrates the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear or both.	Legislation
Wisconsin <sup>61</sup>	"Body piercing" means perforating any human body part or tissue, except an ear, and placing a foreign object in the perforation to prevent the perforation from closing.	Legislation
Wyoming <sup>62</sup>	"Body-art" means the practice of physical body adornment utilizing body piercing, branding, scarification, sculpting or tattooing. This definition does not include practices conducted under the supervision of a physician licensed to practice medicine under Wyoming law nor does this definition include piercing of the outer perimeter or lobe of the ear by means of sterilized stud-and-clasp ear piercing systems.	Legislation

**Table 8: Exact Wordings of Statements Related to Ear Piercing Devices in the UK**

Jurisdiction	Statement	Source
England <sup>2</sup>	“hygienic piercing instrument” means an instrument such that any part of the instrument that touches a client is made for use in respect of a single client, is sterile, disposable and is fitted with piercing jewellery supplied in packaging that indicates the part of the body for which it is intended, and that is designed to pierce either – (a) the lobe or upper flat cartilage of the ear, or (b) either side of the nose in the mid-crease area above the nostril.	Guidance Document
Scotland <sup>1</sup>	Systems exist for piercing the lobe/cartilage of the ear and also for piercing the nose. It is not appropriate to use either a system or jewellery intended for nose piercing to pierce the earlobe or cartilage. Ear piercing using a dedicated ear piercing system (cartridge and jewellery are utilised in a gun system) only applies to the piercing of the lobe and the upper flat cartilage area of the ear. The piercing of other areas of the ear such as the tragus, the conch or the rook cannot be properly performed using such dedicated ear piercing systems.	Guidance Document
Wales <sup>4</sup>	If using a cartridge system for body piercing, the licence holder must— use a sterile cartridge and pre sterilised jewellery or objects supplied in sealed packaging which indicates the part of the body for which it is intended.	Draft Legislation

**Table 9: Exact Wordings of Statements Related to Ear Piercing Devices in Australia**

Jurisdiction	Statement	Source
Australian Capital Territory <sup>67</sup>	Closed ear piercing guns should be used to pierce lower ear lobes only and may not be used to pierce the nose or upper ear. Closed piercing guns are required to be thoroughly cleaned with detergent and water and disinfected prior to reuse.	Guidance document
New South Wales <sup>68</sup>	A person must not use an ear piercing gun to carry out a skin penetration procedure other than ear piercing	Legislation
Northern Territory <sup>69</sup>	It is strongly recommended that an ear piercing gun only be used on the ear lobe. Use of an ear piercing gun on cartilage increases the risk of localised trauma which in turn increases susceptibility to infection.	Guidance Document

Jurisdiction	Statement	Source
Queensland <sup>5</sup>	Use a closed ear piercing instrument, only for piercing ears and not for piercing any other part of the body use a closed nose piercing instrument, only for piercing noses and not for piercing any other part of the body.	Guidance Document
Southern Australia <sup>70</sup>	Specific ear piercing guns are available for use on the earlobe only and should not be used for any other body piercing.	Guidance Document
Tasmania <sup>71</sup>	Ear piercing guns must only be used on the external ear.	Guidance Document
Western Australia <sup>6</sup>	The piercing gun (stud gun) is a specialised tool designed specifically for use on ear lobes, or the nose, or the navel. A stud gun must only be used for the body part for which it is designed. For example, an ear piercing gun should not be used to pierce any other part of the body. This includes the upper cartilaginous parts of the ear.	Website

**Table 10: Exact Wordings of Statements Related to Ear Piercing Devices in New Zealand**

Jurisdiction	Statement	Source
New Zealand <sup>72</sup>	Piercing guns are only appropriate for use when piercing ears (lower lobe only) and when used by trained operators. These guns may damage body tissue when used for piercing other parts of the body or when used incorrectly on ears.	Guidance Document

## Conclusion

While some jurisdictions expressly permit the use of piercing devices intended to pierce the nose or other body parts,<sup>1-6</sup> no jurisdictions permit ear piercing devices to be used to pierce body parts other than the ear. The majority of jurisdictions also place restrictions on the use of ear piercing guns to pierce cartilage.

## References

1. Health Protection Scotland, Scottish Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing Working Group. The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (licensing of skin piercing and tattooing) Order 2006: local authority implementation guide [Internet]. Version 1.8. Glasgow: Health Protection Scotland; 2018 [cited 2024 May 28]. Available from: [https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/26264/REHIS-Local-Authority-Implementation-Guide/pdf/REHIS\\_Local\\_Authority\\_Implementation\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/26264/REHIS-Local-Authority-Implementation-Guide/pdf/REHIS_Local_Authority_Implementation_Guide.pdf)
2. Public Health England. Tattooing and body piercing guidance: toolkit [Internet]. London: Crown copyright; 2013 [cited 2024 Jul 25]. Available from: <https://www.cieh.org/media/2004/tattooing-and-body-piercing-guidance-toolkit-july-2013.pdf>
3. British Columbia. Ministry of Health, Health Protection Branch. Guidelines for body modification [Internet]. Victoria, BC: Government of British Columbia; 2017 [cited 2024 May 28]. Available from: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/keeping-bc-healthy-safe/pses/body\\_modification\\_guidelines\\_nov\\_2017.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/keeping-bc-healthy-safe/pses/body_modification_guidelines_nov_2017.pdf)
4. Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government. The Special Procedure Licences (Wales) Regulations 202X [draft]. Cardiff, UK: Llywodraeth Cymru/Welsh Government; 2024 [cited 2024 May 30]. Available from: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2024-02/draft-the-special-procedure-licences-wales-regulations-202x.pdf>
5. Queensland Health. Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003, a guide for local governments [Internet]. Brisbane, QL: State of Queensland; 2014 [cited 2024 Jul 25]. Available from: [https://www.health.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0027/442287/icpas-local-government.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0027/442287/icpas-local-government.pdf)
6. Government of Western Australia, Department of Health. Using ear and nose piercing guns [Internet]. Perth, WA: Government of Western Australia; n.d. [cited 2024 May 30]. Available from: [https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U\\_Z/Using-ear-and-nose-piercing-guns](https://www.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U_Z/Using-ear-and-nose-piercing-guns)
7. Conte S, Kamali K, Muncey-Buckley M, Abbas K, Sabljic T, Mukovozov IM. Complications of body piercings: a systematic review. *Cutis*. 2023;112(3):139-45. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.12788/cutis.0847>
8. van Wijk MP, Kummer JA, Kon M. Ear piercing techniques and their effect on cartilage, a histologic study. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg*. 2008;61 Suppl 1:S104-9. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bjps.2007.01.077>
9. De Cuyper C, S MLP-C, Cullen R. Piercings: techniques and complications. In: De Cuyper C, Pérez-Cotapos S ML, editors. *Dermatologic complications with body art: tattoos, piercings and permanent make-up*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cham, CH: Springer International Publishing; 2018. p. 101-19. Available from: [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-77098-7\\_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-77098-7_5)
10. Sindoni A, Valeriani F, Protano C, Liguori G, Romano Spica V, Vitali M, et al. Health risks for body pierced community: a systematic review. *Public Health*. 2022;205:202-15. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2022.01.035>
11. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Guide to infection prevention and control in personal service settings [Internet]. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., 1<sup>st</sup> revision. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2019 [modified 2019 Jul; cited 2024 May 28]. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/G/2019/guide-ipac-personal-service-settings.pdf>



12. Health Canada, Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, Division of Nosocomial and Occupational Infections. Infection prevention and control practices for personal services: tattooing, ear/body piercing, and electrolysis. *Can Commun Dis Rep*. 1999;25 Suppl 3:1-73. Available from: [https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2016/aspc-phac/HP3-1-25-S3-eng.pdf](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2016/aspc-phac/HP3-1-25-S3-eng.pdf)
13. *Safe Body Art Regulations*, NS Reg 39/2018. Nova Scotia. Available from: <https://www.canlii.org/en/ns/laws/regu/ns-reg-39-2018/latest/ns-reg-39-2018.html>
14. Saskatchewan. Ministry of Health. Saskatchewan personal service facility best management practices [Internet]. Regina, SK: Government of Saskatchewan; 2020 [cited 2024 May 28]. Available from: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/api/v1/products/91812/formats/108743/download>
15. Alberta Health Services. Be spa safe: your guide to protecting yourself at the spa [Internet]. Edmonton, AB: Alberta Health Services; 2018 [cited 2024 May 28]. Available from: <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eph-be-spa-safe.pdf>
16. Manitoba Health. Personal service facility guidelines [Internet]. Winnipeg, MB: King's Printer for Manitoba; 2013 [cited 2024 May 28]. Available from: [https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/protection/docs/psf\\_guideline.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/environmentalhealth/protection/docs/psf_guideline.pdf)
17. Northwest Territories. Health and Social Services. Standards for personal service establishments [Internet]. Yellowknife, NT: Government of Northwest Territories; 2012 [cited 2024 May 28]. Available from: <https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/hss/files/nwt-pse-standards.pdf>
18. Prince Edward Island. Department of Health and Wellness, Environmental Health. Guidelines for personal service facilities [Internet]. Charlottetown, PE: Government of Prince Edward Island; 2019 [cited 2024 May 28]. Available from: [https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/guidelines\\_for\\_personal\\_service\\_facilities.pdf](https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/sites/default/files/publications/guidelines_for_personal_service_facilities.pdf)
19. US. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Devices and Radiological Health Office of Regulatory Affairs. CPG Sec. 320.100 ear piercing devices [Internet]. Rockville, MD: FDA; 1987 [modified 2015 Feb 25; cited 2024 May 28]. Available from: <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/cpg-sec-320100-ear-piercing-devices>
20. *Hair and Body Art Schools and Shops*, 18 AAC 23.244. Alaska. Available from: <https://dec.alaska.gov/media/1033/18-aac-23.pdf>
21. Senate Research, Arizona State Senate. Fact sheet for SB. 1232 [Internet]. Phoenix, AZ: Government of Arizona; 2011 [cited 2024 May 29]. Available from: <https://web.archive.org/web/20230326094434/https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/49leg/1r/summary/s.1232heath-ced.doc.htm>
22. Arkansas State Board of Health. Rules and regulations pertaining to body art establishments. Effective: February 2016 [Internet]. Little Rock, AR: Government of Arkansas; 2016 [cited 2024 May 29]. Available from: <https://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/images/uploads/rules/BodyArt.pdf>
23. *Body Art Establishments*, 6 CCR 1010-22. Colorado. Available from: [https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=421#:~:text=\(a\)%20All%20body%20piercing%20needles,good%20condition%20shall%20be%20used](https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=421#:~:text=(a)%20All%20body%20piercing%20needles,good%20condition%20shall%20be%20used)

24. Kansas Board of Cosmetology. Tattooing, cosmetic tattooing, body piercing: statutes, rules and regulations, as of November 12, 2021 [Internet]. Topeka, KS: Kansas Board of Cosmetology; 2021 [cited 2024 May 29]. Available from: [https://www.kansas.gov/kboc/Docs/Law\\_Book\\_BA.pdf](https://www.kansas.gov/kboc/Docs/Law_Book_BA.pdf)
25. *Body Piercing and Ear piercing*, 902 KAR 45:070. Kentucky. Available from: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/902/045/070/>
26. *Commercial Body Art*, LAC 51:XXVIII. Louisiana. Available from: <https://www.doa.la.gov/media/j3hnpfdy/51.pdf>
27. Massachusetts. Department of Public Health, Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Model regulations for body art establishments [Internet]. Boston, MA: Commonwealth of Massachusetts; 2001 [cited 2024 May 29]. Available from: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/body-art-establishments-model-regulations/download>
28. Minnesota Department of Health. Body art consumer information [Internet]. St. Paul, MN: Government of Minnesota; 2023 [modified 2023 Mar 02; cited 2024 May 29]. Available from: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/facilities/providers/bodyart/consumerinfo.html>
29. *Regulations Governing the Registration of Individuals Performing Tattooing and Individuals Performing Body Piercing*, 15 Miss Code Pt 19, SPt 60, Ch 11. Mississippi. Available from: [https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/\\_static/resources/880.pdf](https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/880.pdf)
30. *Body Art Rules*, RSA Ch Plc 600. New Hampshire. Available from: <https://www.oplc.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt441/files/inline-documents/sonh/plc-600-certified.pdf>
31. *Body Art & Ear-Piercing Facility Standards*, NJAC C 8:27. New Jersey. Available from: <https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/phfpp/Body%20Art%20Rule.pdf>
32. *Body Piercing and Tattooing*, OAC 310:233. Unofficial version. Oklahoma. Available from: <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/health/health2/aem-documents/protective-health/consumer-health-services/tattoo-and-body-piercing/310-233-october-1-2017.pdf>
33. *Earlobe Piercing Practice Standards and Prohibitions*, OAR 331-900-0095. Oregon. Available from: [https://oregon.public.law/rules/oar\\_331-900-0095#:~:text=\(6\)%20Earlobe%20Piercing%20is%20prohibited,or%20drugs%3B%20and%20C2%A9](https://oregon.public.law/rules/oar_331-900-0095#:~:text=(6)%20Earlobe%20Piercing%20is%20prohibited,or%20drugs%3B%20and%20C2%A9)
34. *Minimum Sanitation Standards for Body Piercing*, SD Admin R 44:12:02. South Dakota. Available from: <https://sdlegislature.gov/Rules/Administrative/44:12:02>
35. *Client Qualifications, Disclosure, and Records*, 25 Tex Admin Code § 229.406. Texas, Available from: [https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p\\_dir=&p\\_rloc=&p\\_tloc=&p\\_ploc=&pg=1&p\\_tac=&ti=25&pt=1&ch=229&rl=406](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=25&pt=1&ch=229&rl=406)
36. Vermont Secretary of State. Rules relating to tattooing and body piercing [Internet]. Montpelier, VT: State of Vermont; 2004 [cited 2024 May 29]. Available from: [https://sos.vermont.gov/media/rwmdomkh/tat\\_rules.pdf](https://sos.vermont.gov/media/rwmdomkh/tat_rules.pdf)
37. *Body Art Practice and Facilities*, Ala Admin Code r 420-3-23. Alabama. Available from: <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/foodsafety/assets/albodyartrules.pdf>
38. *Department of Public Health*, Conn Agencies Reg § 368a-19a. Connecticut. Available from: [https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap\\_368a.html](https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_368a.html)

39. *Body Art Establishments*, 16-4451 DE Admin Code. Delaware. Available from:  
[https://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title16/Department%20of%20Health%20and%20Social%20Services/Division%20of%20Public%20Health/Health%20Systems%20Protection%20\(HSP\)/4451.shtml](https://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title16/Department%20of%20Health%20and%20Social%20Services/Division%20of%20Public%20Health/Health%20Systems%20Protection%20(HSP)/4451.shtml)
40. *Regulation of body-piercing salons*, Fla Admin Code r 381.0075. Florida. Available from:  
[http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App\\_mode=Display\\_Statute&URL=0300-0399/0381/Sections/0381.0075.html](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0300-0399/0381/Sections/0381.0075.html)
41. *Body Art*, Ga Comp R & Regs 511-3-8. Georgia. Available from:  
[https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/notice-adoption-regulations-chapter-511-3-8-body-art-march-7-2023/download#:~:text=\(f\)%20it%20shall%20be%20unlawful,of%20the%20person's%20parent%20or](https://dph.georgia.gov/document/document/notice-adoption-regulations-chapter-511-3-8-body-art-march-7-2023/download#:~:text=(f)%20it%20shall%20be%20unlawful,of%20the%20person's%20parent%20or)
42. *Tattooing, Branding and Body Piercing of Minors*, Idaho Admin r 18.1523. Idaho. Available from:  
<https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/title18/t18ch15/sect18-1523/>
43. *Body Art Code*, Ill Adm Code tit 77, pt 797. Illinois. Available from:  
<https://www.ilga.gov/Commission/jcar/admincode/JCARTitlePart.asp?Title=077&Part=0797>
44. *Tattooing or Body Piercing a Minor*, IN Code § 35-45-21-4 (2023). Indiana. Available from:  
<https://law.justia.com/codes/indiana/title-35/article-45/chapter-21/section-35-45-21-4/>
45. *Body Piercing*, 32 64 Me Code R. Maine. Available from:  
<https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/32/title32ch64.pdf>
46. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services requirements for body art facilities [Internet]. Lansing, MI: State of Michigan; 2010 [modified 2018 Jun 29; cited 2024 May 30]. Available from: [https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Folder50/Folder1/BAReqs811\\_360378\\_7\\_edited10\\_5.pdf?rev=fc136829eeeb4a0d80f59828c900b9a5](https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/mdhhs/Folder50/Folder1/BAReqs811_360378_7_edited10_5.pdf?rev=fc136829eeeb4a0d80f59828c900b9a5)
47. *Definitions — tattooing, branding, body piercing, prohibited, when, penalty*, Mo Code Regs tit.12, § 324.520. Missouri. Available from:  
<https://revisor.mo.gov/main/OneSection.aspx?section=324.520>
48. *Tattooing and Piercing Establishments*, Mont Admin R 37.112.1. Montana. Available from:  
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/FCS/BodyArt/BodyArtARM.pdf>
49. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Body art profession [Internet]. Lincoln, NE: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; 2024 [cited 2024 May 30]. Available from:  
<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Body-Art-Profession.aspx>
50. *Sanitation*, Nev Admin Code § 444 (Revised 2022 Jul). Nevada. Available from:  
<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nac/nac-444.html>
51. *Body Artists and Operators*, NM Code R §16.36. New Mexico. Available from:  
[https://www.rld.nm.gov/uploads/files/BCD/Rule%20Book%20-%206\\_21\\_18.pdf](https://www.rld.nm.gov/uploads/files/BCD/Rule%20Book%20-%206_21_18.pdf)
52. Regulation of body piercing and tattooing, Article 4-A. New York. Available from:  
[https://www.health.ny.gov/community/body\\_art/article\\_4a.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/community/body_art/article_4a.htm)
53. North Dakota Health and Human Services. Tattoo and body art [Internet]. Bismarck, ND: North Dakota Health and Human Services; 2008 [modified 2019 May 14; cited 2024 May 30]. Available from:

[https://www.hhs.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/DOH%20Legacy/FL/F%26L%20PDF/Tattoo\\_Regs.pdf](https://www.hhs.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/DOH%20Legacy/FL/F%26L%20PDF/Tattoo_Regs.pdf)

54. *Tattoo and Body Piercing Services*, Ohio Admin Code 3701:9. Ohio. Available from: <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-3701-9>
55. *Standards for Permitting Body Piercing Facilities*, SC Code Regs 61-109. South Carolina. Available from: <https://scdhec.gov/sites/default/files/media/document/R.61-109.pdf>
56. *Body Piercing*, Tenn Comp R & Regs 1200-23-6. Tennessee. Available from: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/1200-23-06.pdf>
57. *Unlawful Body Piercing and Tattooing of a Minor - Penalties*, Utah Admin Code r 76-10-2201. Utah. Available from: [https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title76/Chapter10/C76-10-S2201\\_1800010118000101.pdf](https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title76/Chapter10/C76-10-S2201_1800010118000101.pdf)
58. *Tattooing or Body Piercing of Minors*, 18 Va Admin Code § 2-371.3. Virginia. Available from: <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title18.2/chapter8/section18.2-371.3/#:~:text=No%20person%20shall%20tattoo%20or,under%20the%20supervision%20of%20a>
59. *Body Art, Body Piercing, and Tattooing*, Wash Admin Code § 18.300. Washington. Available from: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=18.300&full=true>
60. *Body Piercing Studio Business*, W Va Code R § 16-37. West Virginia. Available from: <https://code.wvlegislature.gov/16-37-2/>
61. *Tattooing and Body Piercing*, Wis Admin Code Trans § 221. Wisconsin. Available from: [https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin\\_code/sps/professional\\_services/220/221.pdf](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sps/professional_services/220/221.pdf)
62. *Children*, 14 Wyo Code R. Wyoming. Available from: <https://wyoleg.gov/statutes/compress/title14.pdf>
63. *Public Health (Wales) Act 2017*, anaw 2. Wales. Available from: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2017/2/contents>
64. Northern Ireland. Public Health Agency. *Tattooing and body piercing guidance: toolkit* [Internet]. Belfast, NI: Public Health Agency; 2014 [cited 2024 Jul 25]. Available from: <https://www.fermanaghmagh.com/app/uploads/2022/07/Tattoo-Toolkit-NI-version-1-Updated-19.10.16-2-1.pdf>
65. State of Victoria. Department of Health and Human Services. *Infection prevention and control guidelines for hair, beauty, tattooing and skin penetration industries* [Internet]. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Melbourne, VI: State of Victoria; 2019 [modified 2020 Jun; cited 2024 May 30]. Available from: <https://content.health.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/migrated/files/collections/policies-and-guidelines/i/ipc-guidelines-for-hair-beauty-tattooing-and-skin-penetration-industries-drc.docx>
66. State of Victoria. Department of Health and Human Services, Communicable Disease Control Section. *Health guidelines for personal care and body art industries* [Internet]. Melbourne, VI: State of Victoria; 2004 [cited 2024 May 30]. Available from: <https://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/files/sharedassets/public/public-health/documents/tattooing-and-beauty-guidelines.pdf>
67. ACT Health. *Infection control guidelines for office practices and other community based services* [Internet]. Canberra, AC: Australian Capital Territory; 2006 [cited 2024 May 30]. Available from: [https://www.act.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0015/2111109/Infection\\_control\\_guidelines\\_for\\_office\\_practices\\_and\\_other\\_community\\_based\\_services\\_2006.pdf](https://www.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/2111109/Infection_control_guidelines_for_office_practices_and_other_community_based_services_2006.pdf)

68. *Public Health (Skin Penetration)*, Reg 2000, no 499. New South Wales. Available from: <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/pdf/asmade/sl-2000-499>
69. Northern Territory Department of Health, Environmental Health Branch. Public and environmental health guidelines for hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art [Internet]. Darwin City, NT: Northern Territory Government of Australia; 2014 [cited 2024 May 30]. Available from: <https://digitallibrary.health.nt.gov.au/entities/publication/04a59090-e9dc-45f8-8600-988d36bdfa35/details>
70. State of South Australia. Department of Health. Guidelines on the safe and hygienic practice of skin penetration [Internet]. Revised ed. Adelaide, SA: Government of South Australia; 2004 [cited 2024 Jul 25]. Available from: <https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/ae0a49c-1ab7-4702-849b-373311a300b0/skin-penetration-guide-10feb05.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE-ae0a49c-1ab7-4702-849b-373311a300b0-onrQrk7>
71. Jacobs M. Department of Health and Community Services. Guidelines for ear and body piercing [Internet]. Hobart, TS: State of Tasmania; 2004 [cited 2024 May 30]. Available from: [https://www.health.tas.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-12/Guidelines\\_for\\_ear\\_and\\_body\\_piercing\\_DoHTasmania1998.pdf](https://www.health.tas.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-12/Guidelines_for_ear_and_body_piercing_DoHTasmania1998.pdf)
72. New Zealand. Ministry of Health. Guidelines for the safe piercing of skin [Internet]. Wellington, NZ: New Zealand Ministry of Health; 1998 [cited 2024 Jul 25]. Available from: <https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/skinp.pdf>

## Citation

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Use of piercing devices in Canada and select international jurisdictions. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2024.

ISBN: 978-1-4868-8223-6

## Disclaimer

This document was developed by Public Health Ontario (PHO). PHO provides scientific and technical advice to Ontario's government, public health organizations and health care providers. PHO's work is guided by the current best available evidence at the time of publication. The application and use of this document is the responsibility of the user. PHO assumes no liability resulting from any such application or use. This document may be reproduced without permission for non-commercial purposes only and provided that appropriate credit is given to PHO. No changes and/or modifications may be made to this document without express written permission from PHO.

## Public Health Ontario

Public Health Ontario is an agency of the Government of Ontario dedicated to protecting and promoting the health of all Ontarians and reducing inequities in health. Public Health Ontario links public health practitioners, front-line health workers and researchers to the best scientific intelligence and knowledge from around the world.

For more information about PHO, visit [publichealthontario.ca](https://publichealthontario.ca).

© King's Printer for Ontario, 2024

Ontario 