

Tattoo Legalization In Massachusetts And What It Means To You

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The recent tattoo legalization has raised a lot of questions regarding laws, health, State finances and society.

This is a basic guide to provide you with some information.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Legalized tattooing means monitored tattooing. It does not mean bringing something here that wasn't before. Tattooing has always been done in Massachusetts illegally and underground with no monitoring or regulations. Legalization will make this ancient art form safer. The actual regulations are over 40 pages long, so this is just some basics.

- You must be over 18 yrs. of age, you cannot have a parent sign for you
- Needles must be single-use, sterilized, and disposable
- There must be an autoclave (sterilizer) on the premises
- Tattooists must be certified in First Aid and CPR
- They must also be certified in Blood Borne Pathogens training
- Immunology
- They must pass an anatomy and physiology course
- There cannot be any carpeting or porous surfaces in the tattoo room
- Nothing is used from one customer to another

HEALTH

Legalized tattooing does not mean a health risk to the State. It means healthier, safer tattooing. You cannot assume that because it is legal you are guaranteed safety or good art work. You still have to do your homework and know what to look for. Every shop and every artist varies on their cleanliness, attitude, respectability and art. Before getting a tattoo you should visit a few shops. Look for overall cleanliness. Smoking is a big no-no; steer clear of a shop that allows smoking inside, and run if they allow customers to bring in alcohol. Remember, a good tattoo is on you for life, take the time to look around. A good shop will be run like a Doctor's office. Employees should be neat, clean, intelligent, and respectful. Ask questions, see how you're treated. Ask for a tour--your request should be met happily. This is an intimate decision; you should be treated with dignity and respect. There's a lot involved with providing a high quality, healthy and safe tattoo. You will own this forever, a tattoo is definitely NOT something you want to go cheap on. You're going to get what you pay for.

STATE

Body Art is a huge industry and growing larger every year. In the past, tattooing was done underground (illegally) so no taxes were paid on income. A large percentage of people also traveled to bordering states to get their body art, giving tax dollars to those states. Therefore, the Massachusetts legalization will bring in a large amount of tax revenue for the State. Body art is a much bigger business than most people realize and is growing incredibly fast. I truly believe it is the fastest growing industry in our country, and will finally gain the respect of big business.

FINANCES

SOCIETY

For many years body art has had a negative attitude around it. It was thought of as something only done by rebels. You were perceived to be bad or wild if you had a tattoo. This negative attitude is unique to the United States. Tattooing is a greatly respected ancient art form in other countries and is finally gaining it's much deserved respect in the United States. People from all walks of life, social, religious and financial backgrounds are getting tattoos. The old stereotype is long gone. It's more difficult nowadays to find someone without a tattoo than someone with one.

I hope this basic guide has been useful in answering some of your questions. If you would like further information feel free to contact our salon.