

**MDCH Body Art Licensing
Program**

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Introduction
Tattoos have quickly become one of the fastest growing industries in the United States. For many years body art was seen as taboo; something associated with gang culture, foreign customs, or low socio-economic class. Tattoos can range from a simple depiction of a person's individuality to more elaborate displays immortalizing the memory of an event or loved one.

Interviews with individuals who have tattoos reveal that common reasons for seeking a tattoo include rebellion, the need for independence, and the desire to fit in with their peers. Similar reasons are given for body piercing and other forms of body art.

Forms of body art procedures mostly done in Michigan licensed body art facilities and defined in the law PA 375 are tattooing, piercing and branding.

Biomechanical



Surrealist



Fine line black and gray



Tribal



Asian

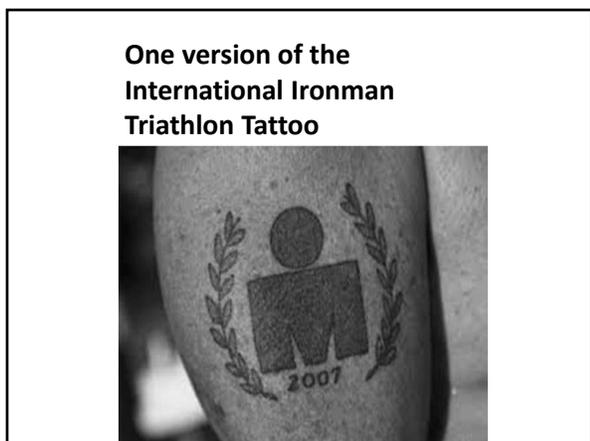


Traditional American









**Tattoos in Sports: Detroit Tiger
Brandon Inge**



**Super Bowl 49 ers Quarterback
Colin Kaepernick**



Louisville Point Guard Peyton Siva



Ohio State QB Braxton Miller



Other Body Art Procedures:
Piercing



Cosmetic/Permanent Makeup



Branding



Dermal Anchors



Scarification

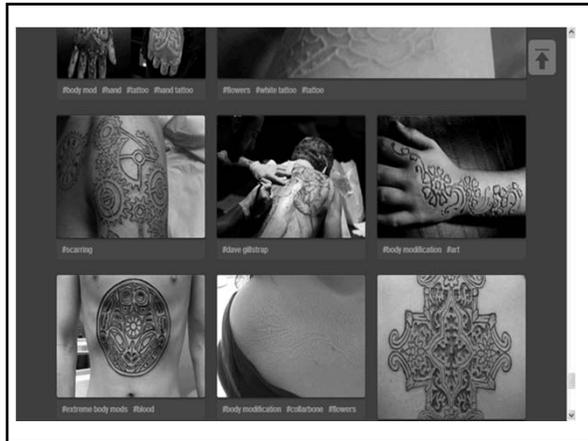


Scarification body art procedure.



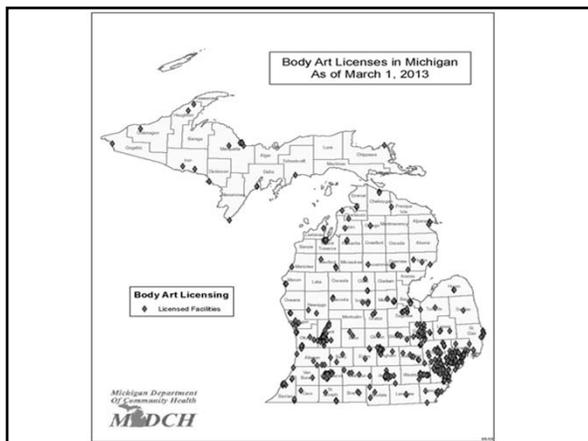






Public Acts to Regulate Body Art in Michigan

- Public Act 149 of 2007 amended the Public Health Code to establish a statewide system for the licensure and regulation of facilities that perform tattooing, branding, and body piercing.
- MDCH in conjunction with MIOASHA, MDEQ and a Body Art Workgroup, composed of local public health and members of the body art industry, created a set of minimum standards to regulate the body art industry statewide.
- PA 149 was later amended on 12/22/2010 as PA 375 in order to compensate LHDs for regulatory work performed for the state.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH MDCH		Body Art Facility Inspection Report Form AUTHORITY: P.A. 378 OF 2012		PART 1 OF ____ NON-TRANSFERABLE LICENSE NUMBER:	
FACILITY NAME:		STREET ADDRESS:		CITY/VILLAGE OR TWP/ZIP	
FACILITY TYPE:		AFFILIATED TEMPORARY:		COUNTY:	
MUNICIPAL WATER: Y N		MUNICIPAL SEWER: Y N		MDEQ Certificate #	
OWNER:	OPERATOR:	PHONE NUMBER:	DATES OF OPERATION:		
<small>Notice to Operators: Non-critical items listed below must be corrected by the next regular inspection or as otherwise indicated. All critical items shall be corrected immediately or as otherwise indicated. Michigan Public Health Code, act 378 of 2012</small>			INSPECTION TYPE: Pre-Opening Inspection 1 Opening Inspection 2 Routine Inspection 3 Follow-Up 4 Complaint 5 Other 6		
KEY: * = COMPLAINT; ** = NON-COMPLIANT; NA = NOT APPLICABLE (*) = GUIDELINES FOR BODY ART FACILITIES SECTION REFERENCE					
CRITICAL VIOLATIONS: RECOMMEND A PERSON: 1 ____ REFERRAL TO MDEQ AS PART 378 (2) 2 ____ REFERRAL TO MDEQ FOR WASTE DISPOSAL (12) 3 ____ TECHNICIAN TRAINING EDUCATION (7) 4 ____ MEDICAL GRADES GLOVES USED (1, 12, 13) 5 ____ MEDICAL GRADES GLOVES USED (1, 12, 13) 6 ____ MEDICAL GRADES GLOVES USED (1, 12, 13) 7 ____ MEDICAL GRADES GLOVES USED (1, 12, 13) 8 ____ MEDICAL GRADES GLOVES USED (1, 12, 13) 9 ____ MEDICAL GRADES GLOVES USED (1, 12, 13) 10 ____ APPROVED HAND WASH STATION IN PROCEDURE AREA (14) 11 ____ PROCEDURE AREA CONTAINED TO PREVENT CROSS CONTAMINATION (8) 12 ____ INSTRUMENTS USED, REPLACED OR DISCARDED (1, 9, 12, 13) 13 ____ ULTRA-SOUND UNIT USE MAINTENANCE (14) 14 ____ MEDICAL GRADES INSTRUMENTS CONTAINER (14, 15) 15 ____ MEDICAL GRADES INSTRUMENTS CONTAINER (14, 15) 16 ____ TECHNICIAN'S PERSONAL HYGIENE (1, 12, 13) 17 ____ TECHNICIAN'S PERSONAL HYGIENE (1, 12, 13) 18 ____ TECHNICIAN'S PERSONAL HYGIENE (1, 12, 13) 19 ____ TECHNICIAN'S PERSONAL HYGIENE (1, 12, 13) 20 ____ 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TECHNICIAN'S PERSONAL HYGIENE (1, 12, 13)			NON-CRITICAL VIOLATIONS: FACILITY STANDARDS: 10 ____ SUFFICIENT LIGHTING PROVIDED (14, 15) 11 ____ FLOOR SPACE IN PROCEDURE AREA (14, 15) 12 ____ WALL VENTILATED, SCREENS GOOD REPAIR (14, 15) 13 ____ PROCEDURE AREA SEPARATE FROM STORAGE AREA (14, 15) 14 ____ PROCEDURE AREA CLEANING, DISINFECTING AND STERILIZING (14, 15) 15 ____ FACILITY HAS DISINFECTING EQUIPMENT (14, 15) 16 ____ WALLS, FLOORS, CEILING SURFACES CLEAN & GOOD REPAIR (14, 15) 17 ____ SINKS, LAUNDRY AND HAND WASHING (14, 15) 18 ____ SINK WITH HANDSOME, HOT, COLETT, COVERED WASTE RECEPTACLE (14, 15) 19 ____ ALL CONTAINERS PROPERLY LABELED (14, 15) 20 ____ RECORDS & PUBLIC NOTICE (14, 15) 21 ____ CURRENT LICENSE POSTED IN CUSTOMER SERVICE AREA (14, 15) 22 ____ ALL VACCINATION STATUS OR RECORDS FROM CUSTOMER (14, 15) 23 ____ ALL VACCINATION STATUS OR RECORDS FROM CUSTOMER (14, 15) 24 ____ ALL VACCINATION STATUS OR RECORDS FROM CUSTOMER (14, 15) 25 ____ ALL VACCINATION STATUS OR 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Received by: _____		Inspected by: _____		Date: ____/____/____	

The screenshot shows the MDCH website page for 'Body Art Facility Licensing in Michigan'. The page includes a navigation menu on the left with categories like 'Health, Death, Marriage and Divorce Records', 'Preventive Health & Immunization', 'Children & Families', 'Mental Health & Substance Abuse', 'Health Care', 'Infectious and Communicable Diseases', 'Pregnancy', 'Health, Community Health', 'Public Safety & Environmental Health'. The main content area features a header with 'MDCH Department of Community Health' and a sub-header 'Body Art Facility Licensing in Michigan'. Below this, there is a section titled 'Licensing information' with several bullet points: 'Apply for or Renew a Body Art Facility License', 'Update Information on Bloodborne Infections Diseases', 'MDCH Publications on Medical Waste', 'List of Michigan Licensed Body Art Facilities', 'List of Currently Inspected Body Art Facilities in the State of Michigan', 'Licensing Information for Bloodborne Infections Diseases', 'Body Art Facility Licensing Agency', 'Body Art Information for Local Health Departments', 'Michigan Training, Inspection Forms, and more', 'Body Art Information for TATU', and 'Body Art Information for TATU'. At the bottom, there is a footer with contact information and a copyright notice for 2013.

Key Points to Remember

- ❖ There are no national standards for equipment used in body art studios like those in food serve (i.e. NSF). Equipment used must follow manufacture directions. Autoclaves must produce negative spore tests to assure sterility.
- ❖ Tattoo inks are not FDA regulated. The color pigments used in them are but not once adulterated in inks.
- ❖ Body art facility site plans are unique and individual. There is no standardization in the layout of a body art facility other than the facility requirements delineated in the **MDCH Requirements for Body Art Facilities**.


MMWR
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

Early Release
Volume 61, Early Release
August 22, 2012

Tattoo-Associated Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Skin Infections — Multiple States, 2011–2012

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In January 2012, New York public health officials received reports of *Mycobacterium chelonae* skin infections in 14 residents who received tattoos during September–December 2011. All infections were associated with use of the same nationally distributed, pre-filled gray ink manufactured by company A. Public health investigations by CDC, state and local health departments, and the Food and Drug Administration were conducted. This report summarizes the findings of those investigations.

[Full text](#)

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Papules Associated with Tattoo Ink–Related Nontuberculous Mycobacterial Infection.



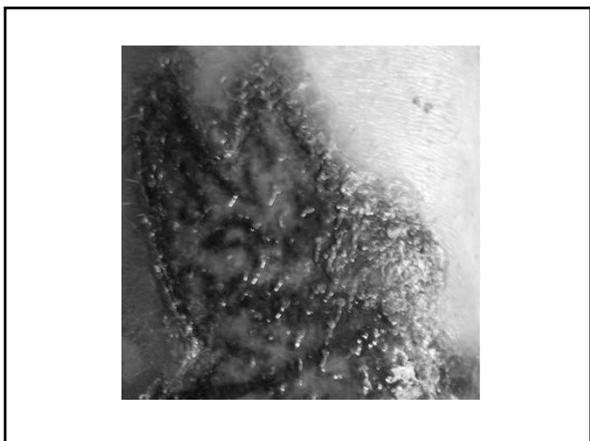
LeBlanc PM et al. N Engl J Med 2012;367:985-987.

Skin Infection Photos















Where would be safer ?







In Conclusion:

- The MDCH Body Art Licensing Program is a newly created regulatory program for MDCH that is still evolving to meet unexpected shortfalls through the passage and implementation of PA 375.
- Communicable Disease and Environmental Health working together to investigate body art facility complaints can lead to sound epidemiological data for improving minimum standards of operation.
- To lower morbidity locally, an awareness campaign would highlight the danger of unlicensed tattoo artists to local prosecutors, law enforcement agencies and medical care providers.

**CONTACT
INFORMATION**

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Body Art Licensing and
Informational Website
address:
www.michigan.gov/bodyart
