Guidance for registering skin piercing activities
(Acupuncture, Electrolysis, Tattooing, Cosmetic Piercing & Semi-Permanent Skin-Colouring)

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
(Sections 14, 15, 16 & 17)

Skin piercing is a general term that covers:

- Acupuncture
- Tattooing
- Cosmetic piercing (which covers ear and body piercing)
- Electrolysis
- Semi-permanent skin-colouring (which includes micropigmentation, micro-blading and tricopigmentation)

Any person carrying on the practice of acupuncture, or the business of tattooing, cosmetic piercing, electrolysis, or semi-permanent skin-colouring, must be registered with the Local Authority. The skin piercing activities listed above must only be carried out on premises that are also registered with the Local Authority.

It is an offence under the Act to undertake any of the skin piercing activities listed above if the premises or the person is not registered with the Local Authority.

Brighton & Hove City Council has adopted byelaws that set out the standards for the hygienic operation of skin piercing premises. Persons carrying out skin piercing must comply with these byelaws. Copies can be found on our [website](#).

**Fees:**

- Registration of a new premises: £76.10
- Registration of a new person (inc. guest artists): £76.10
- Registration of a new premises and person: £158.00
- Already registered person applying to work at a different premises: £10.50

Card payments can be taken over the phone once we receive the registration form. Please ensure you provide a contact number. All cheque payments should be made payable to Brighton and Hove City Council. We do not accept cash payments.

Application forms can be sent to us as an email attachment to:

[ehl.safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:ehl.safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Alternatively, they can be posted to:

Environmental Health and Licensing,
Brighton and Hove City Council,
Bartholomew House, Bartholomew Square,
Brighton, BN1 1JE
Exemptions to the requirement to register:

There are limited exemptions to the requirements for registering with the Local Authority, for both practitioners of acupuncture, tattooing, cosmetic piercing, electrolysis and semi-permanent skin-colouring and the premises on which these activities are carried out.

If acupuncture is practiced by, or under the supervision of, a registered medical practitioner or a dentist, there is no requirement for that person or the premises on which they are practising to be registered with the Local Authority.

If the business of tattooing, cosmetic piercing, electrolysis and semi-permanent skin-colouring is carried out by, or under the supervision of, a registered medical practitioner, there is no requirement for that person or the premises on which they are carrying out business to be registered with the Local Authority.

For the avoidance of doubt, other registered health practitioners, e.g. physiotherapists, nurses, osteopaths and chiropractors, must register with Brighton & Hove City Council before offering tattooing, cosmetic piercing, electrolysis and semi-permanent skin-colouring, unless the work is supervised by a registered medical practitioner or, in the case of acupuncture, by a registered medical practitioner or dentist.

Offences:

Failure to Register

It is an offence under Section 16(1) of the Act for any person to conduct skin piercing activities without being registered or on premises that are not registered with Brighton & Hove City Council, as required by Section 14(1) or (2) or Section 15(1) or (2). Any person who contravenes this requirement shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to £1000.

Breach/contravening Byelaws

It is an offence under Section 16(2) of the Act for any person to contravene a byelaw made under Sections 14 and 15. Any person who contravenes this requirement shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to £1000.

If a person registered under Section 14 or 15 of the Act is found to contravene a byelaw, the court may, instead of or in addition to imposing a fine, order the suspension or cancellation of their personal registration.

Any court that orders the suspension or cancellation of a person’s registration may also order the suspension or cancellation of any premises registration, for the premises where the contravention of the byelaw took place, if the person who committed the offence occupies them.

Failure to display registration certificate and byelaws

It is an offence under Section 16(9) of the Act for a registered person not to display their certificate of registration and the byelaws in a prominent position at the place where the activities take place. Such person(s) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to £500.

If you have any queries, please contact us at ehl.safety@brighton-hove.gov.uk or on 01273 294429.
Application to register for skin piercing activities
(Acupuncture, Electrolysis, Tattooing, Cosmetic Piercing & Semi-Permanent Skin-Colouring)

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
(Sections 14, 15, 16 & 17)

1. Are you (please tick):
   - ☐ Registering a new premises for skin piercing activities?
   - ☐ Registering a new person to undertake skin piercing activities?
   - ☐ Registering a new person as a guest artist?
   - ☐ Registering a new premises and a person to carry out skin piercing activities?
   - ☐ Already registered with us, but are going to be working in a different premises?

2. Which skin piercing activities are you applying for (please tick):
   - ☐ Acupuncture
   - ☐ Electrolysis
   - ☐ Tattooing
   - ☐ Cosmetic Piercing
   - ☐ Semi-Permanent Skin-Colouring

Section A – Premises details:

Trading Name of premises:
Address:
Postcode:
Telephone number of premises:
Email address of premises:
Business website/social media details (Facebook, Instagram, etc):

Proprietor/owner of the business:
Section B – Person who will carry out skin piercing activities:

First Name*:
Surname*:

*please provide the name stated on official documents, such as a passport, driving licence, etc.

Known as/alias/artist name:
Home address:
Postcode:
Telephone Number:
Email address:
Date of birth:
Place of birth:
Business website/social media details (Facebook, Instagram, etc):

Section C – Persons already registered but are going to be working in a different premises:

Which skin piercing activities are you already registered for:

☐ Acupuncture
☐ Electrolysis
☐ Tattooing
☐ Cosmetic Piercing
☐ Semi-Permanent Skin-Colouring

At which premises were you previously registered?

Section D – Previous and proposed registrations:

Are you registered with, or do you hold a licence for skin piercing activities issued by any other Local Authority?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If you answered Yes, please give the Local Authority name:

Do you intend to register with, or apply for a licence for skin piercing activities with another Local Authority?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If you answered Yes, please give the Local Authority name:
Section E – Declaration of convictions:

Has the above named proprietor or person ever been convicted of an offence under Section 16 of the above Act?

☐ Yes
☐ No

If you answered Yes, please give details of the offence, including the court date:

Section F - Declaration and signature:

I declare that:

☐ I have read and understood the guidance and requirements of registration
☐ I enclose the relevant registration fee or have provided a phone number for payment to be taken by card
☐ I understand that I must inform Brighton & Hove City Council of any changes to my personal or premises details
☐ I have read, understood and will comply with the skin piercing byelaws
☐ that the answers given are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief

Signed:

Print Name:

Date:

Your personal data is held by Brighton and Hove City Council in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. For further information, please visit the Brighton and Hove City Council website.