

# Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services

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## DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL PROCESSING

### CREDENTIALING INFORMATION FOR TATTOOIST/BODY PIERCER APPLICANTS

Per Wis. Admin. Code § [SPS 221.04](#), all tattooing and body piercing activities must occur in a licensed establishment. In addition, all tattooists and body piercers must also hold a practitioner's license.

#### **What Counts as Tattooing and Body Piercing?**

- Tattoo - Means to insert pigment under the surface of the skin of a person, by pricking with a needle or otherwise, so as to produce an indelible mark or figure through the skin.
- Body Piercing - Means perforating any human body part or tissue, except an ear, and to place a foreign object in the perforation to prevent the perforation from closing.
- Ear Piercing - Ear piercing is exempt from the licensing requirements. All parts of the ear are included in this exemption.

#### **Variance Request:**

If you are requesting a variance, please view the information at <https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/Professions/TattooingBodyPiercingEstablishment/Default.aspx>.

#### **License Application Process:**

1. **Submit application** and applicable fee(s) online via LicensE, <https://license.wi.gov/>.