



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Tattoo Schools

FROM: Kelley Smith
Executive Director

PHONE: 804-367-8590

DATE: August 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Second Notice -Regulatory Changes to Tattoo Curriculum Requirements

The Board for Barbers and Cosmetology would like to provide information regarding your tattoo program. **The new tattoo regulations will take effect on September 1, 2023.** These regulations establish the training requirements for tattoo programs in a licensed tattoo school. On June 23, 2023, the Board sent all tattoo schools a letter with specific instructions to update their tattoo program. The revised tattoo program is 1000 hours with a minimum of 100 performances. Tattoo schools shall devote 500 hours to practical training. The Board provided schools until September 1, 2023, to update their curriculum.

Tattoo curriculum requirements are attached to this memorandum. To be eligible for the 750-hour tattoo program (previously approved program), students must start their training before September 1, 2023. For instance, if a student begins a tattoo program on August 31, 2023, they can complete the 750-hour program. However, those who start their tattoo program on or after September 1, 2023, will need to complete the 1000-hour program. Please submit your updated syllabus and detailed course outline to the Board for Barbers and Cosmetology at your earliest convenience to ensure approval by September 1, 2023.

The Board has a description of all the tattoo changes, on its Virginia Townhall website, [Virginia Regulatory Town Hall Show XML](#). You may contact the Board office by telephone at (804) 367-8590, or by email at barbercosmo@dpor.virginia.gov, with any questions that you may have pertaining to the information provided in this memo or any of the Board's programs.

18VAC41-50-280 Tattooing school curriculum requirements

A. Any person desiring to enroll in the tattooing school shall be required to provide documentation of satisfactory completion of a minimum of five hours of health education to include (i) bloodborne disease, sterilization, and aseptic techniques related to tattooing; (ii) first aid; and (iii) CPR.

B. Tattooing school curriculum requirements are as follows:

1. Microbiology.

- a. Microorganisms, viruses, bacteria, fungus;
- b. Transmission cycle of infectious diseases; and
- c. Characteristics of antimicrobial agents.

2. Immunization.

- a. Types of immunizations;
- b. Hepatitis A through G transmission and immunization;
- c. HIV/AIDS;
- d. Tetanus, streptococcal, zoonotic, tuberculosis, pneumococcal, and influenza;
- e. Measles, mumps, and rubella;
- f. Vaccines and immunization; and
- g. General preventative measures to be taken to protect the tattooer and client.

3. Sanitation and disinfection.

a. Definition of terms:

- (1) Sterilization;
- (2) Disinfection and disinfectant;
- (3) Sterilizer or sterilant;
- (4) Antiseptic;
- (5) Germicide;
- (6) Decontamination; and
- (7) Sanitation.

- b. The use of steam sterilization equipment and techniques;
- c. The use of chemical agents, antiseptics, disinfectants, and fumigants;

- d. The use of sanitation equipment;
 - e. Preservice sanitation procedure; and
 - f. Post service sanitation procedure.
4. Safety.
- a. Proper needle handling and disposal;
 - b. How to avoid overexposure to chemicals;
 - c. The use of Material Safety Data Sheets;
 - d. Blood spill procedures;
 - e. Equipment and instrument storage; and
 - f. First aid and CPR.
5. Bloodborne pathogen standards.
- a. OSHA and CDC bloodborne pathogen standards;
 - b. Control plan for bloodborne pathogens;
 - c. Exposure control plan for tattooers;
 - d. Overview of compliance requirements; and
 - e. Disorders and when not to service a client.
6. Professional standards.
- a. History of tattooing;
 - b. Ethics;
 - c. Recordkeeping:
 - (1) Client health history;
 - (2) Consent forms; and
 - (3) HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 Privacy Rule) Standards.
 - d. Preparing station, making appointments, parlor ethics:
 - (1) Maintaining professional appearance, notifying clients of schedule changes; and
 - (2) Promoting services of the parlor and establishing clientele.
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- e. Parlor management.
 - (1) Licensing requirements; and
 - (2) Taxes.
 - f. Supplies.
 - (1) Usages;
 - (2) Ordering; and
 - (3) Storage.
7. Tattooing.
- a. Client consultation;
 - b. Client health form;
 - c. Client disclosure form;
 - d. Client preparation;
 - e. Sanitation and safety precautions;
 - f. Implement selection and use;
 - g. Proper use of equipment;
 - h. Material selection and use;
 - i. Needles;
 - (1) Groupings;
 - (2) Properties; and
 - (3) Making;
 - j. Ink;
 - k. Machine:
 - (1) Construction;
 - (2) Adjustment; and
 - (3) Power supply;
 - l. Art, drawing; and
 - m. Portfolio.

8. Anatomy.
 - a. Understanding of skin; and
 - b. Parts and functions of skin.
9. Virginia tattooing laws and regulations

18VAC41-50-290 Hours of instruction and performances

A. Curriculum requirements specified in 18VAC41-50-280 shall be taught over a minimum of 1,000 hours as follows:

1. 350 hours shall be devoted to theory pertaining to 18VAC41-50-280 B 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8;
2. 150 hours shall be devoted to theory pertaining to subdivision 3 of 18VAC41-50-280; and
3. The remaining 500 hours shall be devoted to practical training to include tattooing curriculum requirements and a minimum of 100 performances pertaining to 18VAC41-50-280 B 7.