GUIDANCE TO REGISTER PREMISES

Any person carrying on the business of tattooing, electrolysis, acupuncture, semipermanent skin colouring, ear piercing or body piercing must be registered with the local authority. Any persons engaged in, or assisting with any such practice must also be registered with the local authority.

What is skin piercing and do I need to register?

Skin piercing is a general term that covers:

- Acupuncture
- Cosmetic piercing
- Semi-permanent skin colouring
- Electrolysis
- Tattooing

The council has passed a resolution to adopt byelaws for the regulation of skin piercing activities in accordance with of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by section 120 of the Local Government Act 2003. These byelaws came into operation on 26 July 2013. Persons carrying out skin piercing must comply with these byelaws.

It is an offence under the Act to undertake any of the skin piercing activities listed above if the premises and the person are not registered with the council.

If you are practising at a premises already registered by the council then you only need to register yourself as an operator (please complete the appropriate form).

Fees

Please click on link on website to view the current fees.

Please make any cheque payable to ‘South Oxfordshire District Council’.

Application process

On application an applicant must include the full postal address of the proposed registered premises.

Before a premises can be registered, an officer from The Food and Safety Team of South Oxfordshire District Council, will inspect the premises to ensure that it complies with all relevant legislation, including health and safety, hygiene regulations and the byelaws.
If there are no issues, your registration will be issued. The registration certificate must be prominently displayed on your premises at all times.

**Exemptions**

If a person(s) is carrying on a business of tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, electrolysis, acupuncture, ear piercing or body piercing under the supervision of a person who is registered as a medical practitioner then neither he/she nor the premises at which he is practising needs to be registered by the council.

**Offences:**

**Failure to Register**

It is an offence under Section 16(1)(a) and (b) of the Act for any person who contravenes Sections 14(1) or (2) and Section 15(1) or (2), ie to conduct these activities without being registered by the council.

**Breach/contravening Byelaws**

It is also an offence under Section 16(2)(a) and (b) for any person who contravenes a byelaw under Sections 14 and 15. It is possible that the court, instead of or in addition to imposing a fine under this Section, may order the suspension or cancellation of his registration.

For the above two offences, persons shall be guilty and liable on summary conviction to fines not exceeding £1,000 for either offences.

**Failure to display registration**

It is also an offence under Section 16(9) for a registered person not to display the certificate of registration and the byelaws in a prominent position on the premises where the activities take place. Such person(s) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £300.

The council’s byelaws can be downloaded at our website www.southoxon.gov.uk