

Dear Artist / Consumer,

Please join the Florida Professional Tattoo Artists Guild and the Florida Environmental Health Association in helping to put an end to unlicensed tattooing activity in the State of Florida. Unlicensed, illegal "home" tattooing is illegal under 381.00771-381.00791 of the Florida Statute and 64E-28 of the Florida Administrative code. Home tattooing provides for numerous health and safety concerns including the spread of infectious disease including Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, MRSA and HIV. It also damages the economy of the tattoo industry and the reputation of licensed tattoo artists. Please read that attached letter, print both pages of the letter, sign it and send it to either the Florida Tattoo Artists Guild, The Florida Environmental Health Association or mail it directly to your local Sheriff or Police Chief.

To find your local Sherriff please visit: <https://www.flsheriffs.org/sheriffs/directory/>

If you would rather have us mail it in for you in a mass mailing please send it to either:

Florida Professional Tattoo Artists Guild

C/O Tom Meyers

633-C North Alt A1A

Jupiter, FL 33477

tmeyer@inkaddiction.com

Florida Environmental Health Association

C/O Michael Crea

2153 Siesta Dr.

Sarasota, FL 34239

Info@FEHA.org

Thank you for your continued support of the Florida Tattooing Industry!

Sincerely,

Bill Hannong, Florida Professional Tattoo Artists Guild

Michael Crea, Executive Director, Florida Environmental Health Association

Unlicensed Practice of Tattooing

Dear Sir/Ma'am

For over 20 years the Florida Professional Tattoo Artist's Guild, supported by the professional tattoo industry, working side by side with the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Association of Blood Banks lobbied to pass legislation requiring the licensing of individual tattoo artists and tattoo establishments. Various law enforcement professionals were consulted and provided valuable input into the enforcement aspects of the proposed legislation. On May 21st 2010, legislation was successfully passed requiring the licensing of tattoo artists, tattoo establishments and set minimum requirements for tattoo establishments including but not limited to, prohibiting tattoo procedures being performed outside of a licensed establishment and prohibiting anyone from tattooing a minor under the age of 16.

These statutes and rules can be found in section 381.00771-381.00791 of the Florida Statute and section 64E-28 of the Florida Administrative Code. The effective enforcement date of these regulations was January 1st, 2012.

Since these regulations were enacted, tattoo artists and tattoo establishments have worked in conjunction with the Florida Department of Health to implement and adhere to these regulations designed to protect the health and safety of employees and the general public.

Despite the hard work of the Department of Health, artists and establishments have encountered numerous situations where they were made aware of individuals and establishments not adhering to these regulations. There have been a variety of complaints filed against unlicensed individuals working out of their homes, garages, storage units and flea market type settings. This unlicensed, unregulated and unsanitary activity poses a grave danger to the public health, as well as damaging the economy and reputation of licensed professional tattoo artists and establishments. The unsanitary working conditions of these unlicensed individuals can lead to the spread of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, MRSA and HIV, not only to the person getting tattooed but also to their family and loved ones through direct or indirect transmission.

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of Florida's tattooing regulations and to ask for your help in enforcing them. To date, with few exceptions, it has been an uphill battle trying to get local law enforcement to work with the Department of Health and the tattooing industry to enforce tattooing regulations. We urge you to take a stance on this illegal activity and to help put a stop to it in your jurisdiction.

Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott has put forth substantial effort to bring unlicensed activity under control in Lee County. He works hand in hand with the Department of Health and the licensed tattoo artists in Lee County. Sheriff Scott has found that when investigating unlicensed tattooing activity, his deputies discover that a variety of other crimes are being committed in addition to the unlicensed tattooing. Throughout the county it has been found that unlicensed tattooing can be linked to illegal drugs, illegal guns and sex trafficking.

In addition to the Florida Tattoo Artists Guild & the Florida Association of Blood Banks; The Florida Environmental Health Association (FEHA) is proud to support the continued efforts of the Florida Tattoo Artists Guild, The Florida Department of Health and local law enforcement in putting an end to unlicensed and unsanitary tattooing procedures.

I stand behind the Florida Tattoo Artists Guild, The Florida Association of Blood Banks, The Florida Environmental Health Association, The Florida Department of Health, Local law enforcement and the Florida Tattooing Industry in their efforts to stop the practice of unlicensed tattooing in our state. I urge you to join us by supporting these organizations in their efforts and to take whatever action you deem necessary to put an end to unlicensed tattooing activity in Florida.

Sincerely,

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print: _____ Role (Circle One) Industry Consumer

Address:

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

