

Are you thinking about getting a tattoo or other body art?

Here are some tips:

1. Research the procedure you want done carefully, and if you're getting a tattoo with words or symbols, make sure you check the spelling or meaning beforehand.
2. Interview the potential body art practitioner at the shop you are considering. Don't be afraid to ask questions about the procedure, equipment, and how things get cleaned. This is your body and your health, so you need to be sure of the process.
3. Verify the facility has a current health permit issued from Orange County Health Care Agency Environmental Health Division. You can also ask to see their most recent health inspection report, but there's no law that requires the owner to provide that information.
4. Verify that the body art practitioner has a current body art practitioner registration issued from Orange County Health Care Agency Environmental Health Division.
5. Verify that the body art practitioner has completed bloodborne pathogens exposure training within the last year.
6. Ensure you are comfortable with the body art practitioner *and* the shop. If you don't have a good vibe, check out another shop.
7. At the time of your procedure, ask to have all reusable equipment that will be used in your procedure opened from the sterilization pouch in front of you, or verify that the equipment was sterilized.
8. Make sure you eat before your procedure, as eating and drinking are not allowed while the work is being done. Consider bringing some of your favorite music to help you relax. Some tattoos can take hours, so you want to be comfortable.

Whether you are getting a tattoo, piercing, branding, or permanent make-up remember that most procedures are permanent. Removal procedures are expensive, time consuming, and often more painful than the original procedure. Do your homework!