



Knowsley Council

## **New byelaws for cosmetic treatments**

### **Why do we need new byelaws?**

Knowsley Council's existing byelaws date back to the 1980's. These were adopted to adequately control cleanliness in businesses carrying out ear piercing, tattooing, electrolysis and similar treatments. The byelaws are now over 20 years old and need to be updated to take into account new ways of working and new treatments. The Local Government Act 2003 gives local authorities powers to introduce such changes by adopting new model byelaws.

### **When will the new byelaws come into effect?**

The bye-laws came into effect on 1 August 2011.

### **What are the proposed main changes?**

The 2003 Act amends the original but now outdated 1982 Act to include cosmetic piercing and semi-permanent skin colouring business in addition to ear piercing, tattooing and electrolysis. This approach allows for new or other similar activities to be covered without the need for new byelaws in the future.

- *Cosmetic piercing* means puncturing or penetrating the skin of a client with pre-sterilised single-use needles and the insertion of pre-sterilized jewellery or other adornment into the opening. Ear piercing and cosmetic body piercing are now encompassed in one single term 'cosmetic piercing'.
- *Micro pigmentation* means the insertion of pigment into the dermal layer of the skin. This includes semi-permanent/ permanent make-up, such as lip and eye liner, body art and tattoos.

### **How will any changes to the byelaws affect me?**

If you are a business that carries out any of the above treatments and are not currently registered, you will need to comply with the new byelaws, including the improved hygiene standards.



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### **Will these bylaws make any difference?**

Yes. The adoption of new model byelaws will help to improve health and hygiene standards in these businesses. The byelaws will apply to new cosmetic treatments not previously covered by byelaws. In essence, public safety will be served better by adopting these new byelaws.

### **Do businesses have to re-register?**

No, businesses/individuals and premises already registered for activities covered by section 15 of the 1982 Act current legislation (i.e. tattooing, ear piercing and electrolysis) do not have to re-register.

### **What happens if I do not register?**

Section 120 of the Local Government Act 2003 essentially requires permanent skin colouring and cosmetic piercing businesses to register themselves and their premises with the local authority. Section 16 of the Act provides for offences and for non-custodial penalties (summary conviction and fine) for trading without local authority registration or breaching local authority byelaws.

### **Is there a fee for registration?**

Yes, Section 15(6) 1982 Act enables local authorities to charge reasonable registration fees for registration of persons carrying on businesses of cosmetic piercing or semi-permanent skin colouring. The fee covers initial inspection(s) associated with registration, advising the business about registration and associated administration.

Registration is a one-off event and the fees will not be required annually. We will inform you of the fees upon the adoption of the new byelaws.

### **Where can I get more information about this?**

You can contact Environmental Health and Consumer Protection Service on:

Tel: 0151 443 4712

Fax: 0151 443 5438

Email: [environmentalhealth@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalhealth@knowsley.gov.uk)