

Tattooing, body modification & body piercing of youths



New Laws

(Section 35A Police Offences Act 1935)

It is now illegal to perform a:

- body modification procedure on a youth
- intimate body piercing on a youth
- any other body piercing on a youth aged 15 years or younger without the youth's guardian giving his or her consent and being present during the piercing.

WHAT IS A BODY MODIFICATION PROCEDURE?

A body modification procedure means:

- (a) tattooing;
- (b) body branding;
- (c) body implantation;
- (d) earlobe stretching;
- (e) tongue splitting;
- (f) body scarification; and
- (g) any other procedures prescribed by Regulations.

WHAT IS INTIMATE BODY PIERCING?

An intimate body piercing means the piercing of a person's genitalia, anal region, perineum, nipples or uvula.

WHO CAN GET ANY OTHER BODY PIERCING?

A youth who is aged 16 or 17 years of age can get any other body piercing without a guardian's consent. A youth aged 15 years or younger can get any other body piercing only if a guardian gives his or her consent for the piercing to be performed and is present at the time the piercing is performed.

PENALTIES

If a person performs a body modification procedure on a youth, an intimate body piercing on a youth, or a body piercing in another area on a youth without the guardian's consent and the guardian being present whilst the piercing is performed, then a fine or a term of imprisonment can be imposed upon conviction.

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