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Athletic Trainers

Barbers

Body Piercing
Technicians

Denturists

Direct Entry
Midwives

Electrologists

Environmental
Health Specialists

Estheticians

Hair Designers

Hearing Aid
Specialists

Nail Technicians

Permanent Color
Technicians

Respiratory
Therapists

Tattoo Artists

Waste Water
Specialists

Board of Athletic
Trainers

Board of
Cosmetology

Board of Direct Entry
Midwifery

Board of Denture
Technology

Environmental
Health Registration
Board

Respiratory
Therapist Licensing
Board

Advisory Council on
Hearing Aids

Advisory Council for
Electrologists,
Permanent Color
Technicians & Tattoo
Artists

OHLA Launches New Campaign on Tattoo, Piercing Safety that Asks Youth to Think “Piercing Thoughts”

Salem, OR, May 15, 2006—With the popularity of tattoos and body piercings growing – particularly among young people – the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) wants young Oregon consumers to be thoughtful before taking the tattoo or piercing plunge.

Piercing Thoughts, a new public education campaign focused on tattoo and piercing safety and health, brings a fresh message that asks young people to “Think Before You Ink” and “Be Aware...of Aftercare.”

“While tattoos and body piercings have become more mainstream and accepted, there are still potential risks involved,” says Susan K. Wilson, OHLA Director. “We want young people educated about those risks and knowledgeable about the process if they decide to get tattooed or pierced.”

OHLA is working with high schools and colleges across the state to distribute brochures focused on tattoo and piercing safety and health. The state consumer protection agency is also partnering with other state agencies, youth centers and youth-focused organizations to get the word out.

Two new brochures with updated information have been produced and are being distributed, *Piercing & Tattoo Safety* and *Piercing & Tattoo Aftercare*. Aftercare is the steps consumers need to take to prevent infection and assist their new body art in the healing process.

There are currently 410 registered body piercing technicians and 147 licensed facilities in Oregon, while there are 409 licensed tattoo artists / permanent color technicians and 189 licensed facilities. Permanent color technicians are licensed with tattoo artists due to the similar nature of their work, but permanent color technicians focus on cosmetic and medical, rather than decorative or figurative, uses of coloring or marking human skin.

There were 15 consumer complaints against body piercing technicians in 2005 and 29 complaints against tattoo artists / permanent color technicians out of a total of 264 complaints amongst the 15 OHLA-regulated professions.

Please visit www.oregon.gov/OHLA for more information on the OHLA central agency and on body piercing and tattooing regulation in Oregon.

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