

# Informed Consent - Standard Body Piercing

**A copy of this document *must* be provided to the client  
(and legal guardian if client is under 18 years of age)**

Client Name (Please Print)

Date of Service

**INFORMED CONSENT** is both a process and a document – neither can stand alone as informed consent. The informed consent *process* must include a verbal review of the procedures, alternates, and risks of the piercing procedure, as set out below, as well as an opportunity for the client to ask the piercer any question about the piercing. The informed consent *document* must be signed by you, the client, or legal guardian (if client is under 18 years of age).

## **PROCEDURES**

**General Body piercing:** A piercing of the body that has a point of entry and a point of exit that is made for ornamentation or decoration. Jewelry may be inserted into the pierced opening for decoration and to prevent closure of the opening.

**RISKS:** Any body piercing may become infected and may result in an allergic reaction to the jewelry. Certain parts of the body, for example the cartilaginous portion of the upper ear, may be more susceptible to infection because of reduced blood flow and therefore reduced exposure to immune system activity. Depending on the area of the body that is pierced, imprecise piercing may damage nerves, blood vessels or ducts located in that area. Healing time ranges from 6 to 8 weeks (e.g., a pierced earlobe), to 6-9 months or longer (e.g., a pierced navel). Neglecting appropriate aftercare may increase likelihood of infection and extend healing time. Scarring following removal of jewelry may be permanent. If you have experienced keloid scarring or are susceptible to keloid formation, be aware that piercing procedures may result in keloid scarring.

**Cheek piercing:** A piercing of the face that goes through the cheek, creating an opening to the oral cavity. Jewelry is inserted and held in place by a flat disc inside the mouth.

**RISKS:** A piercing through the cheek may become infected and may result in allergic reaction to the jewelry. The cheek is relatively thick tissue and is rich with blood vessels, nerves and glands. Cheeks contain the ducts carrying saliva from the salivary glands to the mouth, making appropriate placement of the piercing critical. Imprecise piercing may damage nerves, blood vessels or ducts located in the cheek. Cheek piercing openings may weep saliva. Healing time may be from 6 to 9 months or longer. Scarring following removal of jewelry may be permanent. If you have experienced keloid scarring or are susceptible to keloid formation, be aware that piercing procedures may result in keloid scarring. Neglecting appropriate aftercare may increase likelihood of infection and extend healing time.

**Single-point piercing:** Also known as dermal anchor or microdermal piercing, consists of a pierced point of entry but not a point of exit. Specially designed jewelry is inserted into the pierced area and sits below the skin where it becomes anchored, leaving the jewelry exposed on the surface of the skin.

**RISKS:** A single-point piercing may become infected. The risk of infection may be greater depending where on the body the piercing is located; there is also the possibility of allergic reaction. The process of piercing may damage nerves located in the area that is pierced. The "anchor" portion of the jewelry may become embedded in the skin and need to be removed surgically. Scarring following removal of jewelry may be permanent. Healing time may be from 6 to 8 weeks. Neglecting appropriate aftercare may increase likelihood of infection and extend healing time.

**Nape piercing:** A surface piercing on the back of the neck with a point of entry and exit. Jewelry, usually a surface bar or barbell, is inserted in the pierced opening.

**RISKS:** This piercing may become infected. The process of piercing may damage nerves located in the area that is pierced. Because of its location, the nape piercing may be irritated by clothing, which may increase the chance for infection and extend healing time. Healing time may be from 6 to 9 months. Neglecting appropriate aftercare may increase likelihood of infection and extend healing time.

➤ **ALTERNATIVES:** As with any elective procedure, you have the option or alternative to choose a different procedure or to decline the procedure.

**NOTE:** OAR 331-900-0100 prohibits piercing the genital or nipple of a person under the age of 18, regardless of parental consent.

**This Section to Be: Completed by Client and Body Piercer: (Please Print Clearly)**

**QUESTIONS:** This is your opportunity to ask questions you have about the piercing procedure, including about the procedure and the possible risks.

|                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Question #1: _____<br>_____<br>_____ | Answer #1: _____<br>_____<br>_____ |
| Question #2: _____<br>_____<br>_____ | Answer #2: _____<br>_____<br>_____ |
| Question #3: _____<br>_____<br>_____ | Answer #3: _____<br>_____<br>_____ |

*I have been fully informed of the risks of piercing including but not limited to infection, scarring, and allergic reactions to various piercing jewelry, latex gloves, and antibiotics. Having been informed of the potential risks associated with the piercing procedure, I still wish to proceed with the piercing and I assume any and all risks that may arise from the piercing.*

Copy of Informed Consent Documents Provided:  Verbal  Written

X \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature:** Licensed Piercer \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

X \_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature:** Client (or legal guardian if client is under 18 yrs of age) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**The original signed consent form must be kept by the piercing facility as a part of the client's records. A copy of the signed consent form must be given to the client (OAR 331-900-0110). Body Piercer must retain all documentation above for a minimum of three years.**

This form was developed by the HLO in consultation with the Board of Electrologists and Body Art Practitioners. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact us at: Health Licensing Office, 1430 Tandem Ave. NE, Suite 180, Salem, OR 97301  
Phone: (503) 378-8667, or by email at: [hlo.info@state.or.us](mailto:hlo.info@state.or.us)  
For more information, visit the HLO website at: [www.healthoregon.org/hlo](http://www.healthoregon.org/hlo)