



OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY

Policy Statement

Part II – Youth Services (Facilities)



Subject:

Youth Tattoo Removal Service - Facility

Section – Policy Number:
E: Programming – 2.3

Supersedes:
II-E-2.3 (12/17)
II-E-2.3 (3/07)
II-E-2.3 (11/96)

Effective Date:
10/26/2023

Date of Last Review:
10/26/2025

Related Standards and References:

- [ORS 419C.550 \(Duties and Authority\)](#)
- [OYA policy](#): I-A-8.0 (Exercise and Delegation of Legal Custodian and Guardianship Authority)
II-A-3.1 (Facility Youth Transports and Escorted Trips)
- [OYA forms](#): YA 1510 (Tattoo Removal Service Application)
YA 1511 (Consent for Tattoo Removal)

Related Procedures:

- None

Policy Owner:

Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations Director

Approved:

Joseph O'Leary, Director

I. PURPOSE:

This policy establishes a referral process for youth in close-custody facilities to use tattoo removal services located within a close-custody facility.

II. POLICY DEFINITIONS:

None.

III. POLICY:

OYA strives to offer specific youth services to foster positive youth development. Youth in OYA custody may have tattoos that hinder their successes in the community. Public perception of certain tattoos may impede youth from associating with positive peer groups, limit opportunities for employment, or delay disassociation from previous negative/unlawful behavior.

Tattoo removal services are available to eligible youth to assist them in achieving their reformation goals and promote positive social change. These services are performed by volunteer physicians using an aesthetic laser, or by other means determined by the treating physician.

IV. GENERAL STANDARDS:

- A. The Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations director oversees youth tattoo removal services.
- B. The Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations director has designated a tattoo removal coordinator to coordinate tattoo removal services.
- C. The tattoo removal coordinator's duties include:
 - 1. Verifying volunteer physicians are certified to perform tattoo removal services;
 - 2. Verifying volunteer nurses and medical assistants have a current, active license or certification;
 - 3. Ensuring youth meet the criteria (listed below) to participate in tattoo removal services;
 - 4. Identifying areas where tattoo removal services are performed;
 - 5. Identifying areas to store tattoo removal lasers and supplies; and
 - 6. Preparing youth for the laser procedure.
- D. The tattoo removal coordinator must ensure youth meet the below criteria to participate in tattoo removal services.
 - 1. The youth has a tattoo(s) which may impede successful rehabilitation.
 - 2. The youth's multidisciplinary team (MDT) recommends participation in tattoo removal services.
 - 3. The youth can establish commitment to disassociate from antisocial and criminal groups and activities by completing an application that documents the below information.
 - a) Successful participation in rehabilitative activity as reported by a case manager. Such activity includes participation in any OYA-approved treatment program.
 - b) An understanding of how the youth's tattoo(s) may associate the youth with antisocial or criminal groups or activity, and how tattoo removal will affect the youth's life.
 - c) A signed statement of intent to disassociate from antisocial and criminal culture.
 - d) A willingness to support tattoo removal procedures by attending scheduled treatment appointments.

- E. Youth application for tattoo removal services
 - 1. Youth participation in tattoo removal services is voluntary.
 - 2. Designated facility staff must ensure youth interested in receiving tattoo removal services complete a Tattoo Removal Service Application (form YA 1510). The completed form must be forwarded to the tattoo removal coordinator for review.
 - 3. Staff must obtain written consent from each youth prior to their participation in tattoo removal services by having youth complete a Consent for Tattoo Removal (form YA 1511).
 - a) For youth under 15 years of age, facility staff must also obtain the youth's parent's or legal guardian's consent prior to participation in tattoo removal services.
 - b) If OYA is the guardian, consent authority is exercised only by the superintendent or camp director of the facility where the youth is placed.
- F. Staff must follow OYA policy II-A-3.1 Youth Transports and Escorted Trips when transporting youth from one facility to another for tattoo removal services.
- G. Designated facility staff must ensure youth who are transported into the facility to receive tattoo removal services have no contact with youth regularly housed at that facility.
- H. Staff must disqualify youth who obtain additional tattoos which may impede their successful rehabilitation after receiving tattoo removal services from further tattoo removal services.
- I. Designated staff must document tattoo removal services received in the youth's JJIS notes.

V. LOCAL OPERATING PROTOCOL REQUIRED: NO