



# **Simplified Byelaws**

**Based on the Byelaws Made by  
the Watford Borough Council  
Relating to**

**Acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin-  
colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis**

**(an original copy of the byelaws is available by request)**

## **Cleanliness of Premises and Fittings**

### **1.1** In the byelaws:

“The Act” means the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982;

“client” means any person undergoing treatment;

“a hygienic piercing instrument (a gun)” means an instrument such that any part of the instrument that touches a client is made for use in respect of a single client, is sterile, disposable and is fitted with piercing jewellery supplied in packaging that indicates the part of the body for which it is intended, and that is designed to pierce either—

the lobe or upper flat cartilage of the ear, or

either side of the nose in the mid-crease area above the nostril;

“operator” means any person giving treatment, including a proprietor;

“premises” means any premises registered under the Act;

“proprietor” means any person registered under the Act;

“treatment” means any operation in effecting acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing or electrolysis;

“the treatment area” means any part of premises where treatment is given to clients.

### **2.1** A proprietor shall ensure that—

- a. internal walls, doors, windows, partitions, the floor and floor coverings and ceiling are kept clean and in good repair so that it can be cleaned effectively
- b. waste material, or other litter arising from treatment is handled and disposed of in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance as advised by the local authority
- c. any needle used in treatment is single-use and disposable or is sterilized for each treatment and is suitably stored
- d. furniture and fittings in premises are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively
- e. tables, couches or seats used by clients in the treatment area which may become contaminated with blood or other body fluids, and any surface on which a needle, instrument or equipment is placed immediately prior to treatment have a smooth impervious surface which is disinfected immediately after use and at the end of each working day.
- f. tables, couches, or other item of furniture used in treatment are covered by a disposable paper sheet which is changed for each client
- g. eating, drinking, or smoking is not permitted in the treatment area and a notice or notices reading “No Smoking”, and “No Eating or Drinking” are prominently displayed there.

**2.2** A proprietor shall ensure that the treatment area is used solely for giving treatment (unless the only treatment to be given is ear/nose-piercing using a hygienic piercing instrument (a gun))

**2.3** A proprietor shall ensure that the floor surface of the treatment area is smooth and impervious (unless the only treatment to be given is ear/nose-piercing using a hygienic piercing instrument (a gun) or acupuncture)

## **Cleansing and Sterilization of Needles, Instruments, Jewellery, Materials and Other Equipment**

### **3.1** An operator shall ensure that—

- a. any gown, wrap or other protective clothing, paper or other covering, towel, cloth or other such article used in treatment is clean and in good repair and, so far as is appropriate, is sterile and has not previously been used in connection with another client unless it consists of a material which can be and has been adequately cleansed and, so far as is appropriate, sterilized

- b. any needle, metal instrument, or other instrument or equipment used in treatment or for handling such needle, instrument or equipment and any part of a hygienic piercing instrument that touches a client is sterile
- c. any jewellery used for cosmetic piercing by means of a hygienic piercing instrument (a gun) is sterile
- d. any dye used for tattooing or semi-permanent skin-colouring is sterile and inert
- e. any container used to hold dye for tattooing or semi-permanent skin-colouring is either disposed of at the end of each treatment or is cleaned and sterilized before re-use.

**3.2** A proprietor shall provide—

- a. adequate facilities and equipment for cleansing and sterilization unless only pre-sterilized items are used
- b. sufficient and safe gas points and electrical socket outlets
- c. an adequate and constant supply of clean hot and cold water on the premises
- d. clean and suitable storage which prevents contamination of the as far as possible.

### **Cleanliness of Operators**

**4.1** A Proprietor—shall ensure that an operator—

- a. keeps his hands and nails clean and his nails short
- b. keeps any open lesion on an exposed part of the body effectively covered by an impermeable dressing
- c. wears disposable examination gloves that have not previously been used with another client, unless giving acupuncture otherwise than in the circumstances described in 4.3
- d. wears a gown, wrap or protective clothing that is clean and washable, or alternatively a disposable covering that has not previously been used in connection with another client
- e. does not smoke or consume food or drink in the treatment area

A Proprietor—shall provide—

- f. suitable and sufficient washing facilities appropriately located for the sole use of operators, including an adequate and constant supply of clean hot and cold water, soap or detergent
- g. suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation for operators

**4.2** Where an operator carries out treatment using only a hygienic piercing instrument (a gun) and a proprietor provides either a hand hygienic gel or liquid cleaner, the washing facilities the proprietor provides need not be for the sole use of the operator.

**4.3** Where an operator gives acupuncture a proprietor shall ensure that the operator wears disposable examination gloves that have not previously been used with another client if the client is bleeding or has an open lesion on an exposed part of his body, the client is known to be infected with a blood-borne virus, the operator has an open lesion on his hand or the operator is handling items that may be contaminated with blood or other body fluids.

### **Mobile Operators**

**5.1** A person registered in accordance with sections 14 (acupuncture) or 15 (tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis) of the Act who visits people at their request to give them treatment should observe the requirements relating to an operator in paragraphs 3.1(a-e) and 4.1(a-e).