

Proposed Repeal of Galveston County Health District Tattoo Parlor Regulations

The Galveston County Health District has been enforcing the permitting of Tattoo Parlors under a regulation adopted by the Board of Health in November of 1978. The regulation entitled "Tattoo Parlors" calls for minimal equipment and facilities in each tattoo parlor and also requires the payment of an annual permit fee of \$100.00.

There are currently 7 tattoo parlors permitted by our department.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (formerly Texas Department of Health) also requires licensing of these facilities and performs regular inspections of the facilities under T.A.C. Title 25 Chapter 229.401-229.412. The regulations enforced by DSHS are far more comprehensive than the local regulations we have been enforcing over the years. Having both agencies require licensing or permitting amounts to dual permitting and duplication of services.

We recommend that the Board of Health consider the repeal of the "Tattoo Parlor" regulation enforced by the Galveston County Health District. DSHS requires licensing by their department and neither the tattoo parlors nor the general public gain any additional public health protection by our department duplicating the services that DSHS performs at these facilities. By repealing the Tattoo Parlor regulation, we would in effect be deferring to DSHS to perform inspections; issue permits and otherwise regulates these establishments under T.A.C. Chapter 229.401-229.412 noted above.

Impact to the budget would be negligible and would amount to approximately \$700.00 per year in permit fees. The action would also free up a few additional man hours to allow the staff to address issues in other more pressing programs. The Board of Health repealing this regulation will not put public health at greater risk.

Respectfully Submitted:

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