Licensing issues to be aware of before getting a tattoo or body piercing:

- The artist must have a valid license and work out of a studio approved by the Health Inspection Program or at an approved body art show.
- The body artist must post their license at their place of business.
- The Health Inspection Program never licenses artists to work out of the living areas of a residence.
- Tattoo Parties at home residences are illegal.
- State law states that Minors under the age of 18 are not allowed to get a tattoo even with parental permission.

Sanitary issues to look for at the studio:

- The studio should be clean.
- The area that will be pierced or tattooed must be cleaned and sanitized.
- In general, other than measuring devices, all tools must be disposable (come out of “bubble packs”) or be stainless steel and removed from a sterilized package that was run through an autoclave.
- No reusable tools can be used on subsequent clients without sterilization and/or proper cleaning.
- All disposable items (gauze, razors, pigment cups, water cups, paper towels, tongue depressors, etc.) must never be used on more than one client.
- The artist should be changing their disposable gloves frequently and especially anytime they touch a non-sterile surface.
- The artists must provide written and verbal aftercare instructions.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Health Inspection Program at 207-287-5671.

Additional Resources:

US Food and Drug Administration:
https://www.fda.gov/cosmetics/cosmetic-products/tattoos-permanent-make-up-fact-sheet
https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/think-you-ink-are-tattoos-safe