



Body Piercing and Children Information Sheet

Section 104A Children and Community Services Act 2004

Definition of body piercing

'Body piercing' means piercing a part of the body for the purpose of inserting a bar, pin, ring, stud or similar thing.

Intimate body piercing

Children under 18 years of age are not allowed to have any intimate area (genitals, anal area, perineum and nipples) of their body pierced.

A person who carries out this type of piercing on a child under the age of 18 years can be fined \$18,000 and imprisoned for 18 months. It is not a defence to a charge that the child, or a parent of the child, consented to the body piercing.

Non-intimate body piercing

Non-intimate body piercing means piercing a part of the body including the nose, tongue, face, belly button or other skin surfaces.

If a child is under 18 years of age they require the written consent of their parent.

A person who carries out this type of piercing on a child without written parental consent can be fined \$12,000 and imprisoned for one year.

The only circumstances where a child does not need parental consent is for ear piercing if the child is aged 16 years or over.

Section 104A of the Act does not apply to body piercing carried out for medical or therapeutic purposes.

Obtaining written consent

The parent of the child will need to complete a written consent form which is available on the Department for Child Protection's website at www.dcp.wa.gov.au or use the piercing company's own pro-forma. The parent will need to specify the location on the body where the piercing is to occur.

Further information or concerns regarding the body piercing of a child

If you require further information or have any concerns in relation to the body piercing of a child please contact the Department for Child Protection on (08) 9222 2555. Frequently Asked Questions for Business Owners and Parents are accessible on the Department for Child Protection's website.
