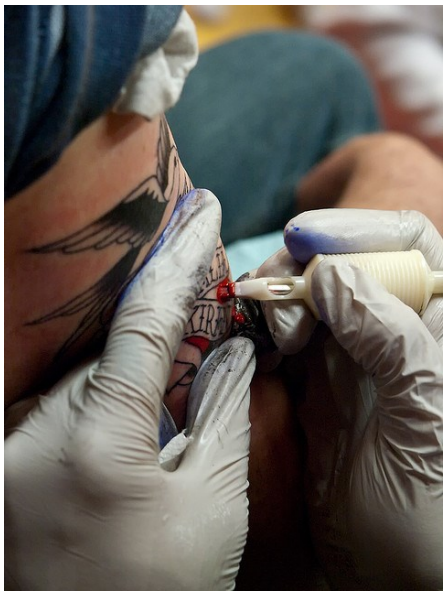
Body Art

The KBOC Office asked me if I would write an article offering guidance for those out there seeking a tattoo apprenticeship. I would have to begin with Kansas' minimum requirements. A person would have to verify at least 1200 hours training in an approved program with 50 completed procedures which can be completed in around 6 months.

There is much debate as to whether this enough training; KBOC had decided it is the minimum amount of training to ensure a tattooer can safely apply a simple tattoo without supervision. The Alliance of Professional Tattooists recommends a 3-5 year program. These requirements vary from one licensing authority to another.

For best results you should make an effort to visit several studios finding the one where you admire the work and staff. You will be asking these people to make a commitment in you so make a commitment to them by getting some extensive work. As you keep coming in for continuing work your relationship with them will eventually change, you will no longer be just a client. There is no need to voice your agenda, if you fit, you will slowly be brought into the fold. It will take time but it will be worth it. In these instances you are selling "you," not your abilities.



After spending time you will know the importance of creating a solid portfolio showing creativity, diversity and professionalism. Participate in art shows. Develop your style while paying homage to those who forged the way. With the Internet and increased interest in tattooing it will be easy to show how much you love tattooing by taking the information available and making it your knowledge. Seek more knowledge through artist workshops and college art classes. Once you've sold you, it is time to showcase your abilities.

Remember no matter how good your art is, there is a personal factor that is not to be overlooked or disregarded. I have watched several strong portfolios get passed over because of attitudes. Put yourself in the trainer's shoes. Wouldn't you rather make the effort for someone who has made a serious commitment to you with a solid portfolio showing a genuine love of tattooing?

--Chuck Householder, Board Member

Training Suggestions/Tips

(not requirements)

READ

1. Please make sure to read and have your apprentice read through the application and checklist for the Practitioner License Application. This is the application your apprentice will use to apply for their Kansas license.

REVIEW

2. Review and have your apprentice review the exam preparation guide(s): Tattoo Artist Exam Preparation Guide , Body Piercing Exam Preparation Guide. These guides contain the practical scripts for the practical exam and references for the written test. You can use the practical script to conduct mock practicals with your apprentice.

Study & Practice

3. Be familiar with and have your apprentice study and practice the Best Practices. These are the KS standards that they will be tested over. If they are not actually practicing these best practices with the clients during the training your apprentice will have a hard time passing the practical exam.

Keep a Log

4. Make sure your apprentice is keeping a log of their training for back up and further verification if requested by the Board: Training Log - Tattoo Artist , Training Log - Body Piercing. If the Board, for any reason, requests further documentation you will want to be able to provide the log sheets.

Keep Copies

5. Make sure your apprentice keeps their own copies of all their client's records/release forms that they provided services to under the apprenticeship. Your apprentice will need to be able to provide at least 50 of these records to the Board for verification of the 50 completed procedures. The forms must be complete and they must be submitted on the Board approved client record form: Release Form (Client Record)