



Government of **Western Australia**
Department for **Child Protection**

Body Piercing and Children Frequently Asked Questions for Businesses

Section 104A Children and Community Services Act 2004

Can I perform an intimate body piercing on a child?

No. It is an offence to carry out a body piercing on any intimate area (genitals, anal area, perineum and the nipples) of a child. A child is a person less than 18 years of age. If you perform an intimate piercing on a child you could be fined up to \$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.

Can I perform a non-intimate body piercing on a child?

You can only perform a non-intimate body piercing with the written consent of the child's parent or legal guardian. Non-intimate body piercing means piercing a part of the body including the nose, tongue, face, belly button or other skin surfaces for the purpose of inserting a bar, pin, ring, stud or similar thing.

If you perform a non-intimate piercing on a child without parental consent you could be fined up to \$12,000 and imprisoned for one year. Children aged 16 years or over are able to have their ears pierced without their parent's consent.

How do I ensure I have written consent from the child's parent?

You will need to get the child's parent to complete a written consent form stating the type and location of the piercing they are consenting to. If you have any concerns about the legitimacy of the written consent, you are encouraged to contact the parent by telephone to confirm their permission or request that the parent be present for the piercing.

A sample consent form is available on the Department for Child Protection website at www.dcp.wa.gov.au. There is no formal requirement to keep records of consent although it is recommended that they be retained for your records.

What do I do if a parent contacts the business after a piercing stating they have not given their written consent?

You should show the parent a copy of the written consent obtained to perform the piercing. If you have any further concerns please contact the Department for Child Protection on (08) 9222 2555.
