



Government of Western Australia
Department for Child Protection



Children and Community Services Act 2004

BODY PIERCING OF YOUNG PEOPLE

It is illegal to perform an intimate body piercing (genitals, anal area, perineum and nipples) on anyone under 18 years of age.

A person who performs an intimate piercing on a child under 18 years of age 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.

Non-intimate body piercing on anyone under 18 years of age requires the written consent of the child's parent.

Non-intimate body piercings 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 a piercer performs a non-intimate piercing on a child without parental consent they could be fined up to \$12,000 and imprisoned for one year.

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

Written consent from the child's parent must specify the location on the body where the piercing is to occur.

A piercer who has any concerns about the legitimacy of the written consent, is encouraged to contact the parent by telephone to confirm their permission or request that the parent be present for the piercing.