

## Tattoos

My 16-year-old son got a tattoo on his arm without my permission or knowledge, is this legal?

A person getting a tattoo must be at least 18 years of age. Section 146.012 of the Texas Health and Safety Code states a tattooist may not tattoo any person under 18 years of age or any person the tattooist suspects of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If a tattooist commits an offense under this section, it is a Class B misdemeanor.



There are exceptions to Section 146.012. You said your 16 year old got a tattoo. If the tattoo is something you feel is obscene or contains offensive language or symbols, gang related names, symbols, or markings, and as the parent or guardian of the person, you want the tattoo markings or language covered up, you or the legal guardian may give a tattooist permission to tattoo over the objectionable tattoo in your presence. You must produce evidence that you are the parent or legal guardian and be present when the re-tattoo is done.

A person younger than 18 years old violates the law if the person falsely states that he or she is 18 years or older to a tattoo studio to get a tattoo. The violation is a Class B Misdemeanor.

All parents should talk to their children about body piercing and tattoos. Tattoos are for life. All you can do is to tattoo over them. Laser surgery to remove tattoos is very expensive and painful.

Thank you,

Constable Ken Jones