

Think that a recent tattoo means you can't give blood? **THINK AGAIN! GET THE FACTS.**



Tattoo?

State-licensed tattoo parlors

You will not be deferred for a tattoo that is applied:

- ~ by a state-regulated entity
- ~ using sterile needles
- ~ with ink that is not reused

Donors will be asked to confirm that the tattoo was given using only sterile needles and ink that was not reused.

Most states currently regulate tattoo facilities. Unless tattoos have been applied by a state-regulated entity/facility using sterile needles and ink that is not reused, there may be a risk of transmission of infectious diseases.

Other situations

Non-regulated tattoo parlors: Wait 12 months after a tattoo if it was applied in a state that does not regulate tattoo facilities regardless of whether non-reused ink and sterile needles were used.

Permanent cosmetics: Permanent cosmetics such as eyeliner, eyebrows, lips, etc., done under the medical supervision of a physician are acceptable in any state.

For everyone: Discuss your particular situation with the health historian at the time of donation. If you are not sure whether a tattoo parlor you visited was in a regulated state, or if needles were sterile and ink was used only once, a Red Cross donor eligibility expert can help.

Do you still have questions?

Ask a health historian at a blood drive, call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org.



American Red Cross