

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE AFTERCARE OF TATTOOS

Treat you new tattoo as an open wound. Keep it clean. Do not touch healing tattoos with dirty hands.

- \* Before cleaning the tattooed area, wash hands thoroughly with soap and warm water for a minimum of 15 seconds and pat dry with clean paper towel.
- \* Carefully remove the gauze bandage and tape (if applied). If the gauze sticks, use warm water to remove. **DON'T RIP IT OFF!**
- \* Using a suggested soap cleanse the area and pat dry. We suggest a soft, solid white paper towel be used always with your new tattoo.
- \* If no "oozing" is apparent after you pat dry with paper towel then you are ready to apply the suggested after-care product to your new tattoo.
- \* Follow the instructions on your after-care product carefully.
- \* Air is important to the healing process. No tight fitting clothing.
- \* Healing can take up to 30 days depending on the size of the tattoo. As it heals expect peeling.
- \* Do not pick at scabs.
- \* Avoid sunburn, salt or chlorinated pool water, hot tubs, saunas and steam baths while the tattoo is healing.
- \* Itching is expected. **DO NOT SCRATCH THE TATTOO!**

Consult a health care provider for:

1. Unexpected redness, tenderness or swelling at the site of the tattoo.
2. Rash.
3. Unexpected drainage at or from the site of the tattoo.
4. Fever within 24 hours of the tattoo.

## PROCEDURE FOR FILING A COMPLAINT

**If you have a complaint contact:**

DHEC Division of Health Licensing  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201  
(803) 545-4370