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## **MEDIA/PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-** January 31, 2011

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Lisa Cook, PIO at (740) 387-3604, ext 222 or Sandy Bridenstine, Director of Environmental Health, at (740) 387-2875

**MARION, Ohio** – January 31, 2011-

Marion Public Health would like to issue an advisory to all citizens in the district regarding tattoo and body piercings. The Environmental Health Division of Marion Public Health has received multiple complaints about illegal tattoo and body piercing operations occurring at unlicensed facilities or private homes. Tattoo and body piercing operations may only occur at licensed facilities which are reviewed and approved by the Board of Health. As of the date of this release, there are only two licensed facilities in Marion County: "Bigg Daddy's Tattoos and Body Piercings" located at 668 North Main St., Marion and "D & J's Vibrant Colors" located at 127 South Main St., Marion.

Each licensed facility is inspected multiple times throughout the year. Inspections include verification for proper sterilization and disinfection techniques, sanitary practices, working logs, and facility cleanliness among other things. The protection of the public from injury and disease is the primary concern of public health.

Citizens should not receive tattoo and body piercing services at unlicensed facilities. Receiving an improper tattoo or piercing procedure could result in the transmission of serious diseases such as: Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Staph Infection, MRSA, and possibly HIV among others.

Marion Public Health actively enforces the Ohio Revised Code section 3730. Individuals who illegally perform tattoo and/or body piercing operations are guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree, punishable by up to 30 days in jail.

Any licensed facility throughout the state of Ohio will have a license or permit posted conspicuously in the establishment. Any citizen believing to have received service at an unlicensed facility or at a home facility located throughout the district is encouraged to contact Marion Public Health at 740-387-2875. Marion Public Health will investigate all reports.

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[www.marionpublichealth.org](http://www.marionpublichealth.org)

Prevent

Promote

Protect