

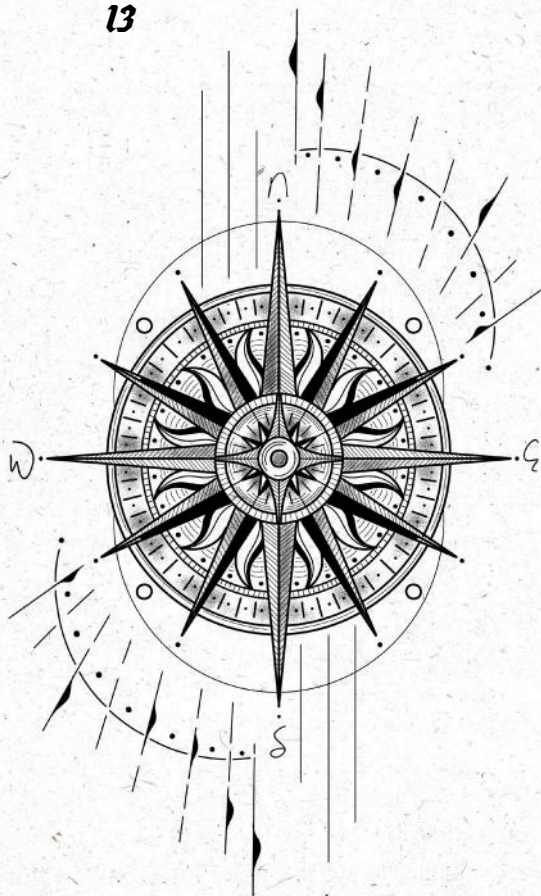
COMFORTABLE IN my own skin



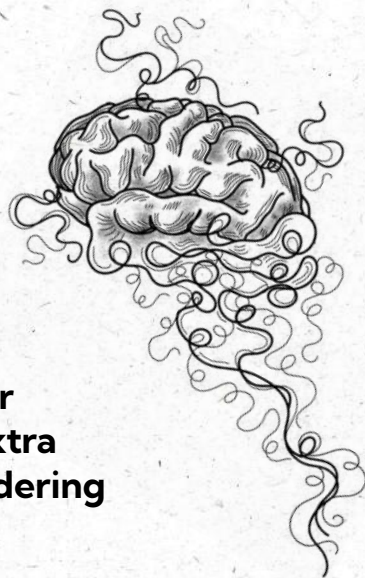
**Helping people living with
HIV and Hepatitis navigate
tattooing and piercing**

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COMMON QUESTIONS



For those of us living with HIV or Hepatitis, we may have a few extra things on our minds when considering tattoos/piercings.

- ***WHAT MIGHT I GET ASKED?***
- ***HOW WILL I RESPOND?***
- ***CAN I PASS ON MY VIRUS?***
- ***WHAT ARE MY LEGAL RIGHTS?***
- ***HOW DO I FIND A PLACE THAT WILL TREAT ME WITH RESPECT?***

This booklet should help you with these questions.

REAL STORIES

**SOME OF MY FAMILY DON'T KNOW
I HAVE HEPATITIS, HOW AM I
MEANT TO TELL A STRANGER?**

**I WON A TATTOO GIVEAWAY ONLINE
BUT BECAUSE I TALKED ABOUT HIV
ON MY INSTAGRAM, THE NEXT DAY
THE ARTIST REFUSED TO TATTOO ME.**

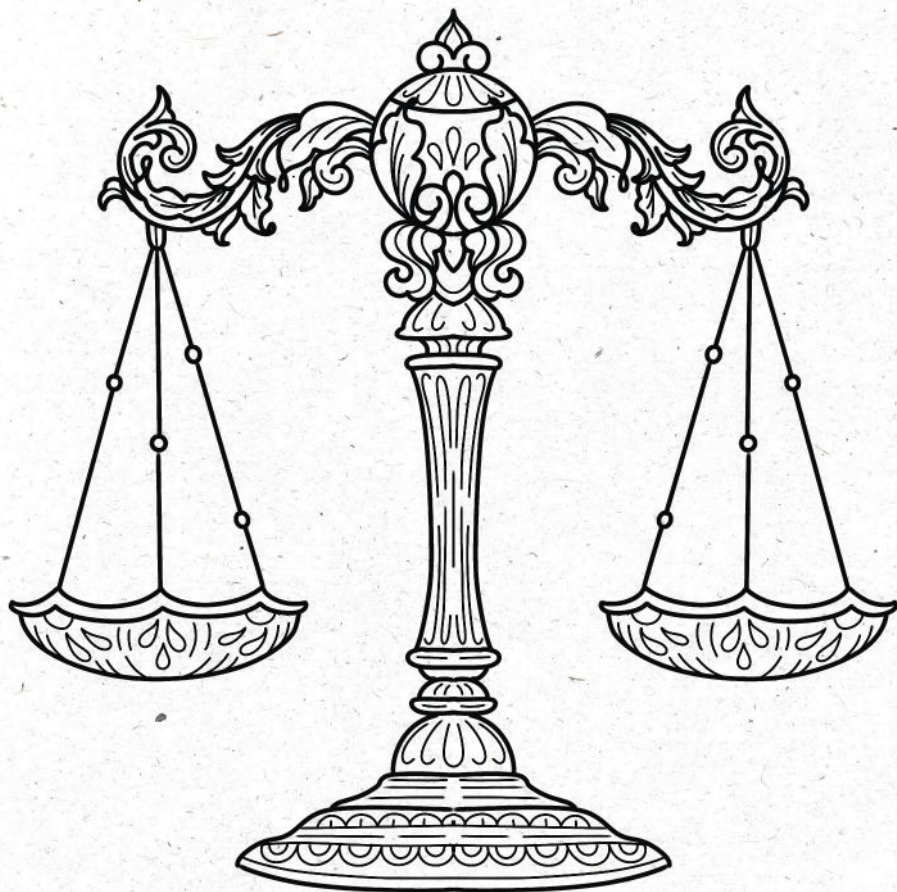
**"I HAVE OVER 10 TATTOOS,
BUT HAVE NEVER WRITTEN ON
A CONSENT FORM I HAVE HIV."**

"I REMEMBER GETTING A TATTOO IN GERMANY AND THEY DIDN'T MENTION HIV OR HEPATITIS ON THEIR CONSENT FORM. THAT HELPED ME FEEL LIKE I COULD BREATHE AND BE COMFORTABLE IN THEIR SPACE."

"I HAVE PANIC ATTACKS WORRYING HOW THE ARTIST MIGHT REACT IF THEY FOUND OUT."

"I WAS ASKED IF I HAD A PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONDITION AND WHAT MEDICATION I WAS ON FOR IT. THE TEAM NEVER ASKED ANY FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS ABOUT MY HIV STATUS, WHICH WAS A HUGE POSITIVE FOR ME!"

WHAT THE LAW SAYS



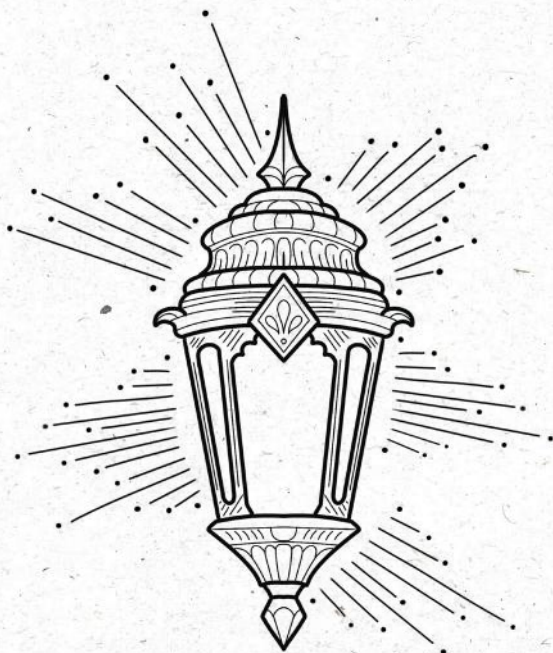
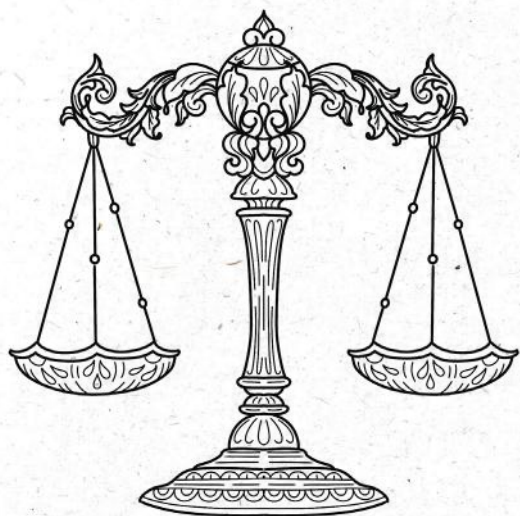
Under the UK Equality Act 2010 it is illegal to refuse or unreasonably change a service for someone living with HIV.

Hepatitis is not named in the Act, but it can be considered a disability protected by law for those whose daily lives are affected (in certain circumstances).

Artists can avoid discrimination by using universal precautions (such as clean equipment, fresh gloves, aprons and arm-sleeves) with every client.

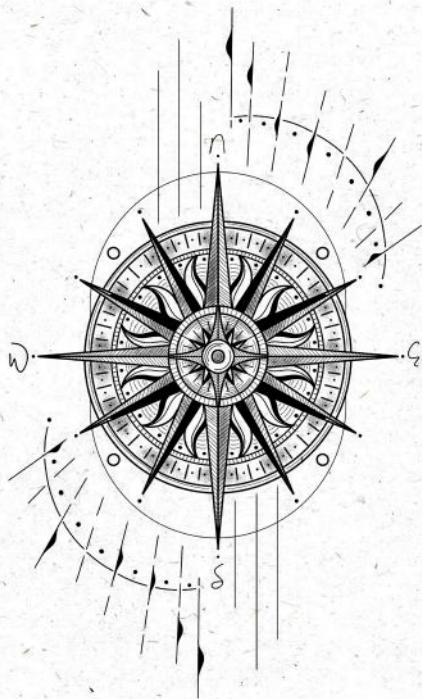
Do I need to speak with my doctor?

There is no health reason that people living with a blood borne virus like HIV or Hepatitis (or being on treatment for them) can't get tattooed or pierced. You don't need to ask your doctor.





elene



CONSENT FORMS



Piercers and tattoo artists need to know about certain health conditions so they can provide correct care and advice.

They provide extra support and information for anyone who has health issues such as skin infections, diabetes, anaemia, heart problems, anything that interferes with blood clotting, etc.

Knowing you are living with HIV or Hepatitis should not change their practice, because they should be using fresh protection and clean equipment with everyone.

Can I pass on my virus to the artist?

Their protection will keep them safe, unless they poke themselves with the needle they are using on you. In that case, there could be a risk, depending on how infectious you are, and there are steps for them to take if an accident happens.

PRIVACY

It's up to you when and how you share your HIV or Hepatitis status. It may help your decision-making to know how a studio uses and stores your information.

As long as safety measures are in place, people don't have any 'right' to be told about your Hepatitis or HIV.







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excellent
**INFECTION
CONTROL**



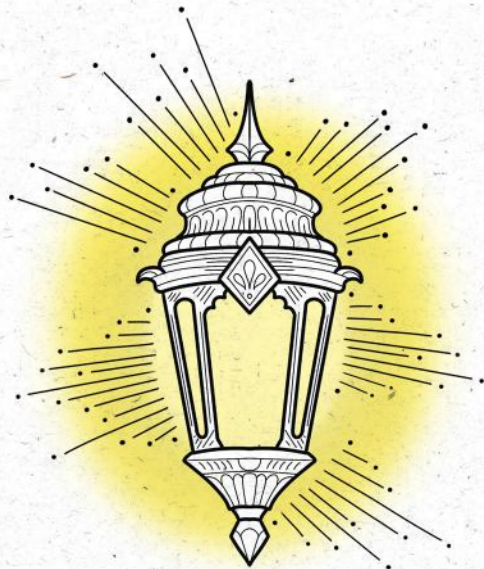
**NO
THIRD-
PARTY**
*data
sharing*



no
**PRESSURE
to
PROCEED**



SUPPORT & INFORMATION



For people living with blood borne viruses:

British Liver Trust www.britishlivertrust.org.uk

CHIVA www.chiva.org.uk

Hepatitis C Trust www.hepctrust.org.uk

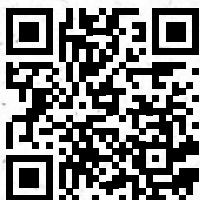
National AIDS Trust www.nat.org.uk

For Artists:

📍 [togethertattoonetWORK](#)

📍 [hivandhep.awareness](#)

Visit: nat.org.uk/bbv-tattooing-piercing for:



- An online copy of this booklet
- Information about blood borne viruses
- Resources for clients, artists and support organisations

Artwork by
📷 [lauraemilytattoo](#)

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Thanks to CHIVA youth committee and our advisory group for commenting on early drafts.

This booklet is produced by HIV & Hepatitis Awareness for Tattoo and Piercing Artists. We are academics and activists with expertise in HIV social and policy research, with input from UK blood borne virus charities, expert clinicians and artists. We are funded by a grant from the Economic and Social Research Council Impact Acceleration Award via University of Bristol.

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