



Member Code of Conduct

The APP requires acknowledgement of this agreement on record from each individual Member. Violation of these basic, critical health and safety requirements is grounds for immediate revocation of membership.

1. I agree not to use ear-piercing guns in my studio due to the impossibility of properly sterilizing the equipment and the inappropriateness of ear piercing gun jewelry.
2. I agree that all needles will be sterilized, used on one person only in one sitting, and will be immediately disposed of in a medical sharps container.
3. I agree that all forceps, tubes, etc. will be sterilized. If they are not used immediately, they will be stored in sterile bags and used on only one person in one sitting. After one such use, instruments will be appropriately decontaminated, processed, and then sterilized in an autoclave; or disposed of immediately after a single use.
4. I agree that as many supplies as possible including corks, rubber bands, toothpicks etc., should be individually packaged and sterilized in an autoclave and disposed of immediately after a single use.
5. I agree to follow manufacturers recommendations on any and all products utilized.
6. I agree that a new pair of medical-grade gloves (sterile and/or non-sterile) will be donned appropriately and worn for every procedure and that gloves will be changed frequently, and whenever there is the slightest chance for cross-contamination.
7. I agree that the room used for piercings will be an enclosed room and used exclusively for piercing and jewelry insertion. This room must also be kept separate from the area used to decontaminate tools.
8. I agree that the piercing room, sterilization room, bathrooms, and all other common areas will be kept scrupulously clean and shall be disinfected frequently. All surfaces shall be nonporous thus allowing them to be cleaned with an EPA-approved disinfectant solution throughout the day and whenever cross-contamination might occur.
9. I agree that all jewelry for initial piercings will be sterilized prior to insertion.
10. I will use only appropriate jewelry for initial piercings as listed in the current [APP minimum standard](#). I recognize that this standard may change periodically. I will be informed of any changes and will update my practices accordingly.
11. I agree that all piercings performed in the studio, whether by a Member or a non-member, will only use appropriate jewelry for initial piercings as listed in the [current APP minimum standard](#). Any use of non-compliant jewelry for initial piercing by any person, Member or non-member, in the studio is considered a breach of environmental standards.
12. I agree not to be under the influence of legal or illegal substances which might compromise my abilities while working.
13. I agree to maintain my certification in First Aid, CPR, and Bloodborne Pathogen training.

14. I agree to maintain, at minimum, the APP's guidelines for biological (spore) testing, or international equivalent, of all autoclaves in use at the studio.
15. I agree to meet or exceed all health, safety, and legal standards as required by my state and local authorities.
16. I agree not to misrepresent myself, my abilities, or my standards in any way.
17. I agree to consider all new health and safety suggestions, as they become known to me, and to make appropriate changes in my technique as applicable.
18. I agree that it is the moral, ethical, and professional responsibility of all piercers to continue to seek out, absorb and share health and safety information relevant to the craft throughout my career.
19. I agree to adhere to the APP logo specification and guidelines.
20. I agree not to use the APP Members' Logo to advertise membership at studios without a current Business Member in good standing on staff.
21. I agree to provide a work environment that is free from discrimination, abuse of authority/power and harassment; and promotes the fair and respectful provision of feedback on performance.
22. I will not discriminate, harass, or abuse my authority/power over employees, contractors, or clientele based upon an individual's sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, size, race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, age (except where legally required), religion, ability, or any other legally protected characteristic(s).
23. Declining to perform a piercing on an individual (who has provided legally required valid identification) based on minimum age requirements, anatomy viability assessment, or potential health complications* is not considered a violation of the APP code of conduct, unless it is done to explicitly discriminate against a legally protected characteristic. Refraining from piercing when there is a reasonable risk that the piercing will fail or result in complications is considered appropriate, safe, and ethical piercing practice.
** All APP Members should familiarize themselves and stay compliant with all local, state, provincial and/or federal discrimination laws, especially the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).*

APP Name and Logo Usage Guidelines

The APP does not certify piercers or piercing studios. Wording such as “APP Certified” should never be used. While the APP does provide education to piercers, we do not train piercers, so “APP Trained” is never acceptable. Having a certificate of attendance to one of our Conferences does not constitute certification or membership. Participation or attendance of classes from the APP does not constitute APP “certification”, training, or membership.

When the membership logo is used, **it must be used in a way that clearly shows the membership belongs to the individual, not the studio.** For those piercing in multiple studios, temporarily or regularly - While membership belongs to the individual, APP membership is dependent upon adherence to not only the personal criteria set forth by the Association, but also the current environmental standards in which the Member operates. Therefore, individual membership is **only recognized** and **advertisable** when operating in a studio environment that has been reviewed by the APP to meet standards and has current APP Business Members on staff.



Business Members-at-Large may only advertise membership when membership is **recognized** and **valid**. While the Association recognizes that Business Members-at-Large may at times operate in studios that do not have current APP Business Members on staff and/or have had their facilities reviewed by the organization, it is integral to the principles of membership that advertisement of such is **not permissible** in association with these studios and procedures performed there.

If any APP **Associate Member**, **Business Member**, or **Business Member-at-Large** uses the Members' Logo in any print advertising, the Member is making a commitment to maintain his or her membership through the end of that print run. Failure for the piercer(s) to renew membership during the duration that the APP name or logo is used in print will result in the Member and/or studio being listed on the [impostors page](#) of the website, even if there were

Members on staff at the time that the printing was done. This includes business cards, watermarks, flyers, print ads, yellow pages ads, and any other print and/or digital media.

Anyone misusing the APP name or logo to falsely state or imply membership will be listed on the APP website as an impostor and may be subject to legal action. It is the responsibility of each individual APP Member to maintain an up to date logo in all print and digital media. The most current version of the APP logo can be found in the File Archive of the safepiercing.org Member's Area. Please replace all former logos with the current logos. By acknowledging this agreement in the Member profile, the Member understands and agrees to adhere to the above APP Name and Logo Usage Agreement for the duration of membership. They agree to immediately discontinue use of the APP Members' Logo if membership in the organization is discontinued for any reason.

They also understand that prior written permission is needed from the Board of Directors to use the APP name or logo in any manner that is not listed above. Failure to comply with the APP Name and Logo Usage agreement could result in suspension or revocation of membership and/or listing as an Impostor. I agree that the APP is not responsible for any expenses I may incur from misuse of the APP name or logo.

The APP logo in Digital Media:



The Association of Professional Piercers freely licenses the use of its trademarked corporate logo (shown below) in all digital media on the condition that the trademark licensee uses the mark to point to the APP homepage, <http://safepiercing.org>, and only to the APP homepage. The APP retains full, unfettered, and sole discretion to revoke this trademark license for any reason whatsoever or for no specified reason.

Simply stated, the APP gives free use of its logo to anyone, for any digital media, including, but not limited to, websites, social media and networking pages, blogs, etc., as long as the following two conditions are met:

1. The logo must point to the APP homepage (<http://safepiercing.org>).
2. The logo must not be used in any way that states or implies membership in the APP for any individual or organization.

3. This logo may not be used in print media without express written permission.

Patron Members may use this logo in the same fashion as non-members and the general public, but may not use the APP name or logo in reference to piercing services or products of any kind.