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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1979 No. 926 (N.I. 10)**

**Tattooing of Minors (Northern Ireland) Order 1979**

- - - - - [26th July 1979]

**Title and commencement**

1. This Order may be cited as the Tattooing of Minors (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 ...  
*Commencement* ...

**Interpretation**

2.—(1) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 shall apply to Article 1 and the following provisions of this Order as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

(2) In this Order—

“medical practitioner” means a fully registered person within the meaning of section 54(1) of the Medical Act 1956 ;

“minor” means a person under the age of 18;

“tattoo” means the insertion into the skin of any colouring material designed to leave a permanent mark.

**Prohibition of tattooing of minors**

3.—(1) Subject to Article 4, any person who tattoos a minor shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under paragraph (1) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding<sup>[F1</sup> five hundred pounds]<sup>F1</sup>.

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**Defences**

4. A person shall not be guilty of an offence under Article 3—

(a) if he reasonably believes that the minor is not under the age of 18; or

(b) if, being a medical practitioner or working under the direction of a medical practitioner, he performs the tattoo for medical reasons.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Tattooing of Minors (Northern Ireland) Order 1979.