TATTOO AFTER-CARE INSTRUCTIONS

\*Remove the dressing/bandage from your tattoo in approximately 30 minutes from the time of application.

\*Wash your hands thoroughly with hot water and soap. Then, use your hand/fingers to gently wash the tattooed area with cool water and soap. DO NOT SCRUB WITH A CLOTH OR ANY OTHER MATERIAL. Rinse thoroughly, and pat dry with a clean paper towel.

\*Apply a SMALL amount of ointment and spread it very thin over the tattoo. It is preferable that you use a product that is specifically made for tattoo aftercare, such as Tatwax, TattooGoo, InkFixx, etc. These products are made from more natural ingredients and are petroleum-free. If none of these products are available, you may use other skin healing ointments such as Vitamin A&D, Aquaphor, etc. These products are available at your local Wal-Mart, grocery stores, drug stores, etc. After applying the ointment, use a clean paper towel to gently dab or wipe off the excess. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!! DO NOT KEEP YOUR TATTOO WET/GOOEY WITH OINTMENT!! The skin needs to be able to breathe, and the perforations from the tattooing process need to close up in order to hold the ink inside. This cannot happen if you have too much ointment on it. Remove excess until it no longer looks wet or shiny. Repeat this process 3 times a day. In the event that your skin develops bumps or rash, it is likely that you are sensitive or possibly allergic to the ointment you are using. Try something different, and if the problem persists, try using a good-quality moisturizing lotion instead.

\*As your tattoo heals, it will likely flake and peel, somewhat like what happens after a bad sunburn. You may even have some scab formation, and it will itch. Following the above instructions properly will help minimize scabbing, flaking, peeling and itching. DO NOT SCRATCH OR PICK AT SCABS OR FLAKING SKIN!! THIS CAN DAMAGE YOUR TATTOO.

\*Do not expose your new tattoo to direct sunlight or tanning bed. You should also avoid swimming until the tattoo is healed, and under no circumstances should you expose it to any natural bodies of water such as rivers, lakes, streams, ditches, or the ocean. These bodies of water contain various bacteria that can cause infection. You may shower as you normally would, but avoid bathing/soaking in the tub, as submersion for any length of time is not good for the tattoo.

\*Do not cover or wrap your tattoo unless it is necessary to keep clothing from rubbing and irritating it, or to keep foreign matter such as dust, dirt, or any other kind of contaminant off of the tattooed area. In the event that you do need to cover it, you may use a breathable, non-stick medical dressing. DO NOT USE ANY NON-BREATHABLE MATERIAL SUCH AS PLASTIC-WRAP. This will cause your tattoo to ooze with blood and body fluid, and can make the tattoo look “milky”. It also causes your skin to sweat underneath, and creates an unfavorable environment for your new tattoo.

\*It is strongly recommended that you do not work out/exercise in a manner that the tattooed area becomes irritated. Excessive movement, stretching and contracting of the tattooed skin will likely cause irritation, inflammation, redness and soreness. This, coupled with sweating, can and will cause problems. UNDER NO CIRCUMTANCES SHOULD YOU GO TO THE GYM/HEALTH CLUB TO WORK OUT. It is very likely that the tattooed area will come in contact with surfaces that are loaded with germs and bacteria, and will become infected.

\*KEEP YOUR TATTOO FREE OF FOREIGN CONTAMINANTS!! Be careful of what you allow the tattooed area to come in contact with. Allowing it to come in contact with surfaces such as walls, tables, counter-tops, floors, gym equipment, etc. IS ASKING FOR AN INFECTION. Keep your hands, fingers and nails away from the area as much as possible, and always wash hands thoroughly before conducting the aftercare procedure as instructed above. As with any other wound, infection is possible, and it is up to you to prevent it. If, at any point, your tattoo shows symptoms of infection, please seek medical treatment.