

THE LITTLE BLACK NEEDLE

Terms & Conditions

Last updated: 4 May 2026 | Governed by the laws of England and Wales

These Terms & Conditions are designed to protect both clients and the studio, and to support safe, fair, and professional tattoo appointments. By booking an appointment, paying a deposit, attending an appointment, or otherwise using the studio's services, you agree to these Terms & Conditions.

Please read them carefully before booking or attending an appointment.

Your statutory rights are not affected.

1. Business Details

Trading name: The Little Black Needle

Studio: Martink's Tattoo Studio, Unit 5 Wren Industrial Estate, Coldred Road, Maidstone, Kent
ME15 9YT

Email: thelittleblackneedle@gmail.com

Instagram: [@thelittleblackneedle](https://www.instagram.com/thelittleblackneedle)

Website: www.thelittleblackneedle.co.uk

Local authority registration/licence details will be available in the studio once issued.

VAT status: Not VAT registered — prices shown are final.

2. Services

The Little Black Needle provides professional tattoo services, including custom tattoos, flash tattoos, cover-ups where suitable, continuing larger pieces, and touch-ups on its own work.

All tattoos are subject to consultation, artist assessment, age verification, medical suitability, skin condition, placement suitability, design suitability, and completion of the studio's consent form before tattooing.

The artist may refuse, pause, or stop a tattoo where it would be unsafe, unsuitable, unlawful, inappropriate, or inconsistent with professional standards.

3. Prices & Payment

Prices are quoted in pounds sterling.

Flash tattoos are priced individually unless stated otherwise.

Custom tattoos are quoted individually based on size, detail, placement, colour, complexity, and estimated time.

Quotes are estimates unless expressly confirmed as fixed in writing. If the design, size, placement, complexity, or session time changes, the price may change. Any material price change will be discussed before tattooing begins.

Full payment is due on the day of the appointment unless agreed otherwise in writing.

Accepted payment methods: cash, card, or bank transfer.

No surcharge will be added to personal consumer debit or credit card payments.

4. Deposits & Bookings

A deposit is required to secure an appointment.

The required deposit will be confirmed at the time of booking and must be paid before the appointment is secured. A booking is not confirmed until the deposit has been received and the appointment has been accepted by the studio.

The deposit is deducted from the final tattoo price on the day of the appointment.

The deposit covers appointment space, consultation time, design preparation, diary administration, and loss of opportunity where another client could have booked the appointment.

Deposits are not automatically refundable if the client cancels, fails to attend, arrives too late to proceed, attends without valid ID, attends under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or fails to disclose relevant information which means the tattoo cannot safely proceed.

Any deposit deduction or retention will be limited to the studio's reasonable losses and costs already incurred.

5. Cancellation, Rescheduling & Lateness

The client may reschedule once without losing the deposit if at least 48 hours' notice is given, subject to availability.

Less than 48 hours' notice, failure to attend, or arriving too late may result in deposit retention and a new deposit being required.

If the client arrives late, the appointment may need to be shortened, rescheduled, or cancelled at the artist's reasonable discretion.

Major design changes requested close to the appointment may require the appointment to be rescheduled. Where design preparation has already been carried out, the deposit may be retained to cover reasonable time and costs.

Cancellation or rescheduling must be made by email to thelittleblackneedle@gmail.com or by telephone/message to 07411 949500. Social media messages may be missed and should not be relied on for urgent cancellation unless confirmed by the studio.

If the studio has to cancel the appointment, the client will be offered a new date or a refund of the deposit.

6. Distance Bookings & Cooling-Off Rights

If a booking is made remotely, for example by phone, email, website, or social media, the client may have a 14-day cancellation period under consumer-contract rules.

If the client asks the studio to begin work within that period, such as consultation, custom design preparation, drawing time, or the tattoo appointment itself, reasonable charges may be deducted for work already carried out if the client cancels.

For custom or personalised design work, cancellation rights may be limited once work has begun at the client's request, subject to applicable consumer law.

This does not affect statutory rights.

7. Age Verification

Clients must be aged 18 or over to be tattooed. Parental consent is not sufficient.

Valid photo ID must be shown before tattooing. Accepted ID includes passport, driving licence, PASS-approved proof-of-age card, or another form of photo ID accepted by the studio.

If satisfactory ID cannot be provided, the appointment will not proceed and the deposit may be retained to cover reasonable costs and lost appointment time.

8. Health, Medical Suitability & Right to Refuse

The client must complete the studio's consent and medical declaration form honestly before tattooing.

The client must disclose relevant medical conditions, medication, allergies, skin conditions, pregnancy, breastfeeding, previous tattoo reactions, fainting episodes, infection risks, or anything else that may affect tattooing or healing.

The client must not attend under the influence of alcohol, recreational drugs, or anything that could affect judgment or ability to give informed consent.

The client should eat properly and be hydrated before the appointment.

The artist may refuse, pause, or stop the appointment if, in the artist's reasonable professional opinion, tattooing would be unsafe, unsuitable, unlawful, inappropriate, or inconsistent with professional standards.

This includes concerns about health, skin condition, placement suitability, intoxication, inability to give informed consent, failure to provide required information, offensive, discriminatory, hateful, unlawful, or otherwise inappropriate designs, or behaviour that is aggressive, abusive, threatening, or prevents the artist from working safely and professionally.

Where refusal or cancellation is caused by non-disclosure, unsuitable attendance, or client conduct, the deposit may be retained to cover reasonable costs already incurred.

The artist and studio are not medical professionals and cannot diagnose medical conditions or provide medical advice or treatment.

The client must notify the studio immediately if any relevant medical condition, medication, illness, skin issue, pregnancy/breastfeeding status, or other material change occurs between booking and the appointment.

9. Design, Artwork, Approval & Intellectual Property

Custom artwork, flash designs, drawings, stencils, and tattoo designs remain the intellectual property of the artist unless agreed otherwise in writing.

The client is paying for the tattoo service and a personal right to wear the design as a tattoo. The client may not copy, reproduce, sell, publish, or give the design to another artist or business without written permission.

Design previews may be shown at or before the appointment depending on the nature of the work. Minor adjustments may be made where reasonable. Major changes may require a new quote, new appointment, additional design fee, or additional deposit.

The client accepts full responsibility for checking names, dates, translations, symbols, spelling, content accuracy, and any reference material supplied by the client before tattooing begins.

The final tattoo is an artistic interpretation and will not be an exact replica of any reference image, photo, drawing, or mock-up. The artist's professional judgment and style will be applied.

Before tattooing begins, the client will have the opportunity to review the final design or stencil, including design, size, spelling, placement, orientation, and agreed style. The client is responsible for checking these carefully and raising any concerns before tattooing starts.

Once the client has approved the final design or stencil and tattooing has begun, changes of mind, personal preference changes, or dissatisfaction with an approved design, size, spelling, placement, orientation, or agreed style are not grounds for a refund.

This does not affect statutory rights if the service has not been carried out with reasonable care and skill.

10. High-Risk Placements & Healing Outcomes

Some placements and skin types are more likely to heal unpredictably, fade, blur, spread, lose ink, or require touch-ups. This includes, but is not limited to, hands, fingers, feet, elbows, knees, wrists, ankles, ribs, neck, face, inner lip, scar tissue, high-friction areas, and high-movement areas.

Fresh tattoos may appear different once healed. They may soften, lighten, blur slightly, fade, or heal unevenly.

Different areas of the same tattoo may heal slightly differently depending on skin type, movement, friction, circulation, placement, and individual healing response.

Healed tattoo colours, tones, and contrast may appear different on different skin tones and may change over time.

Photographs may appear different due to lighting, editing, filters, camera quality, skin texture, or healing stage.

If the client chooses to proceed after being advised of placement or healing risks, the client accepts that results may vary and that additional touch-ups may be chargeable.

No guarantee is made regarding final appearance, exact colour, healed colour, line sharpness, symmetry, healed result, colour retention, or longevity.

11. Aftercare

The client will be provided with written aftercare instructions and is responsible for reading and following them carefully.

Failure to follow aftercare may increase the risk of infection, scarring, colour loss, fading, patchy healing, poor healing, or other complications.

The studio and artist are not responsible for complications caused by failure to follow aftercare, failure to disclose relevant information, interference with the healing tattoo, unsuitable products, sun exposure, swimming, soaking, picking, scratching, shaving, friction, contamination during healing, or factors outside the studio's reasonable control.

Clients should contact the studio for general aftercare guidance, but should seek medical advice where symptoms are significant, worsening, or concerning.

12. Touch-Up Policy

Touch-ups are considered only after the tattoo has fully settled, usually no earlier than 8 weeks after the appointment.

A complimentary touch-up may be considered at the artist's discretion, but is not guaranteed, on the studio's own work where the artist reasonably considers that ink loss or patchy healing was not caused by aftercare failure, client interference, high-risk placement, skin condition, or factors outside the studio's reasonable control.

Touch-up requests must be made within 6 months of the original appointment.

High-risk placements, including hands, fingers, feet, elbows, knees, wrists, and joints, may not qualify for complimentary touch-ups.

Touch-ups are chargeable where required because of aftercare failure, picking, scratching, sun exposure, soaking, friction, unsuitable products, high-risk placement, design changes, normal ageing, lifestyle factors, skin changes, or work by another artist.

The artist will assess touch-up suitability reasonably and professionally.

13. Photography & Marketing

The studio may take photographs of the tattoo for treatment records, portfolio reference, and aftercare/touch-up records.

Use of tattoo photographs or videos for marketing, website, portfolio, or social media purposes is optional and will be dealt with separately in the consent form.

The client's face or clearly identifying features will not be used for marketing unless separate consent has been given.

14. Data Protection

The studio collects and stores personal information and relevant health information for tattoo safety, aftercare, legal, insurance, and record-keeping purposes.

Health information is sensitive special category data and will be stored securely. It will only be accessed where needed and will not be shared with third parties except where required by law, for insurance/legal purposes, or where necessary to protect health and safety.

Client records are usually retained for 7 years from the date of treatment unless a longer period is reasonably required for legal, insurance, safeguarding, product-safety, complaint, or dispute purposes.

For full details about how personal information is collected, used, stored and shared, please see the Privacy Notice.

15. Complaints

If the client has any concern about a tattoo, healing, service, or booking, they should contact the studio as soon as possible.

Any concern, complaint, or touch-up request should be raised promptly, with clear photographs where relevant, before any work is carried out by another artist.

The client should provide their name, appointment date, a clear description of the concern, and clear photographs where relevant.

The studio will review the concern and aim to respond fairly and promptly.

Clients are encouraged to contact the studio before seeking alterations, cover-ups, or corrective work elsewhere, as this may affect the ability to assess the original work and any potential remedy.

For suspected infection, allergic reaction, severe swelling, spreading redness, fever, or feeling unwell, clients should seek medical advice from a GP, NHS 111, urgent care, A&E, or emergency services as appropriate.

If the matter cannot be resolved, the client may seek advice from Citizens Advice Consumer Service, Trading Standards, or the County Court where appropriate.

16. Limitation of Liability

Nothing in these terms excludes or limits liability for death or personal injury caused by negligence, fraud, fraudulent misrepresentation, breach of statutory rights, or any liability that cannot legally be excluded or limited.

Subject to the above, the studio and artist are not responsible for loss, damage, complications,

poor healing, or dissatisfaction caused by:

- failure to follow aftercare;
- failure to disclose relevant medical, skin, medication, allergy, or wellbeing information;
- interference with the healing tattoo;
- use of unsuitable products;
- sun exposure, swimming, soaking, picking, scratching, shaving, friction, or contamination during healing;
- normal individual variation in healing;
- high-risk placements or skin types where risks were explained;
- work carried out by another artist after the appointment;
- changes of mind, personal preference changes, or dissatisfaction with a design, size, spelling, placement, orientation, or agreed style approved by the client before tattooing began;
- fading, ink loss, healed-result variation, colour/contrast variation, and photographic/lighting differences.

This does not affect your statutory rights, including your right for services to be carried out with reasonable care and skill.

17. Governing Law

These terms are governed by the laws of England and Wales. Any dispute will be dealt with by the courts of England and Wales, subject to any mandatory consumer rights that apply.

Questions about these Terms & Conditions can be sent to thelittleblackneedle@gmail.com.