



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Johnnie.jones@ttuhsc.edu

**THE PERMIAN BASIN TATTOO REMOVAL PROGRAM, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER, AND MIDLAND/ODESSA FEDERAL PROBATION
OFFICE ANNOUNCE OFFENDER TATTOO REMOVAL PROGRAM**

ODESSA, TX - The Permian Basin Tattoo Removal Program has initiated a tattoo removal program to assist criminal offenders and prior gang members in removing tattoos that would be detrimental in securing employment. The program was developed in partnership with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at the Permian Basin and the Honorable Robert Junell, United States District Judge.

Program participants also include Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Midland Judicial District Community Supervision and Corrections Department and Ector County Community Supervision and Corrections Department.

Funding for this program was made possible by Neighbors Against Burglary, Drugs, Inc., a Midland-based group; and Betsy Triplett-Hurt.

Tattoo removals will be performed by specially-trained Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at the Permian Basin staff and be coordinated through the Midland/Odessa Federal Probation Office. This service will be provided at a reduced rate of \$50 per session to participants in the Permian Basin Tattoo Removal program.

The TOBIL (Tattoo Obliteration by Infrared) will be used for the program, utilizing a Redfield IRC 2100 Infrared Coagulator. The infrared coagulation splits the ink into small particles the body can absorb, while producing only a superficial second degree burn. A polka-dot pattern is used in order to maintain blood supply to the area. Approximately 30 days later the procedure is repeated to fill in the dots. A third treatment is required on some removals.

The treatment produces skin damage akin to heavy duty sunburn and the results are a slight discoloration of the skin, inability to tan at the site of the tattoo removal, and often the impression that a tattoo was once there but is no longer readable or recognizable.

Individuals who have experienced difficulty securing employment due to prison or gang-related tattoos should contact their probation or parole officers or call 686-4060 to check for eligibility for this reduced-rate program.

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CONTACT: Johnnie Jones, Office of Communications and Marketing, (432) 335-5119