



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

October 11, 2018

OBLIGATIONS UNDER CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE SECTION 52.6 TO POST PUBLIC NOTICES FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Dear Sir/Madam:

Our office is writing to remind businesses that offer massage or bodywork services for compensation of their legal obligation under **California Civil Code section 52.6** to post notices informing the public and victims of human trafficking about how they can seek help or report unlawful activity. This letter provides an overview of the problem of human trafficking and outlines details on how to ensure your business is compliant with this law.

Human trafficking, including forced labor and sex work, is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the United States – a \$9 billion industry. In San Diego, the local sex trafficking trade alone brings in about \$800 million annually. California is one of the nation's top four trafficking destinations.

People from other countries seeking work, underage runaways, sex workers, and domestic workers can be particularly vulnerable to being tricked into situations where they are held in virtual slavery. They may be afraid to contact authorities because they have limited English skills. San Diego City's geographic spread and diverse communities make it easier to hide and move victims from place to place and difficult for law enforcement to locate and help potential victims.

Increasing public awareness of human trafficking and the rights of victims is the right thing to do – and under California Civil Code section 52.6 – it is the law.

You are required to post notices because your business offers massage or bodywork services for compensation. You must post notices in three languages. A poster that complies with notification requirements is available on our website at www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney/humantrafficking or upon request to our Office at cityattorney@sandiego.gov. Please post this poster immediately.

The notices must be placed in a conspicuous place near the public entrance or another location in clear view of the public and employees where similar notices are posted.

The hotline notices must be at least 8 ½ by 11 inches in size, written in a 16 point font, and contain the specific words described in California Civil Code section 52.6. Because your business is located in the City of San Diego, you are required to post a notice in English, Spanish, and Tagalog. We also recommend that you post notices in any other language(s) used in your community.¹

¹ Additional compliant versions of the notice can be found on the Department of Justice's website at <http://oag.ca.gov/human-trafficking/sb1193/counties>. Korean, Tagalog, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Thai, and Vietnamese are some of the other languages available.

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Compliance checks will be conducted by volunteers with the Human Trafficking Advisory Council Subcommittee. **Failure to comply with the posting requirement is punishable by a civil fine or \$500 for a first offense, and \$1,000 for each subsequent offense.**

We have every expectation that your business will comply with the posting requirements and avoid any civil penalties.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Supervising Deputy City Attorney Patricia Miranda in the Nuisance Abatement Unit at (619) 533-5500.

Sincerely yours,



Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

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