

HARMON SIEFF
A LAW CORPORATION
15760 VENTURA BOULEVARD #1900
ENCINO, CALIFORNIA 91436
Telephone: (818) 986-4563
Facsimile: (818) 986-4780
E-mail: SieffLaw@aol.com
Web: www.SieffLaw.com

January 2018

NEW LAWS FOR THE NEW YEAR

This Newsletter identifies a few examples of new California legislation which may be of interest to the current clients of our practice. We hope you will find some of it to be useful.

1. Skydiving

It is illegal to skydive while intoxicated. Who knew?

2. Dead Bodies

Can now be transported out-of-state under certain circumstances without a death certificate or permit.

3. Window Tinting

Although generally prohibited, tinting vehicle windows is allowed for individuals certified by a dermatologist as needing to avoid ultraviolet radiation.

4. Student Loans

Healthcare practitioners will no longer lose their licenses if they default on student loans.

5. Unclaimed Property

The State Controller must publish reasonable public notice of unclaimed property with certain restrictions.

6. Baby Bonding

Businesses with 20 or more workers must provide eligible "new parent" employees up to 12 weeks unpaid, job-protected leave and pay for existing group health insurance coverage.

7. Motorcycles

Requirements for obtaining motorcycle licenses are revised.

8. Suicide Prevention

Licensed psychologists must now complete a six-hour course on suicide risk assessment and intervention.

9. Self-Service Storage

Revises regulations to require more effective notice to defaulting occupants, including e-mail and publication, before selling stored property.

10. Criminal Applicants

Companies with five or more workers cannot inquire of applicants about criminal history before a conditional offer of employment.

11. Salary Questions

Companies are prohibited from asking about a job applicant's prior salary.

12. Minimum Wage

Minimum wage is raised to \$11 per hour for employers with over 25 workers, and \$10.50 if fewer workers.

13. Marijuana

Persons 21 or older can buy recreational marijuana from licensed dispensaries, but it is NOT legal to ingest any marijuana product while in a motor vehicle (even as a passenger) driven upon the highway

14. Firearms

The existing ban on openly carrying long guns is now extended to unincorporated areas of the state; those convicted of hate crimes cannot own a firearm for 10 years; and no firearms are allowed on school grounds.

15. Affordable Housing

New fees are imposed on real estate transactions to subsidize affordable projects.

16. Tampons

Feminine hygiene products must be provided without charge at public schools (grade 6 and above) with 40% pupil poverty.

17. Livestock

Use of antibiotics on animals intended for human consumption is now prohibited unless prescribed by a veterinarian.

18. Pedestrians

Can now enter crosswalks during flashing "Don't Walk" signs if crossing is completed before countdown timer runs out.

19. Diapers

At least one changing station must be accessible to men and women in newly constructed or renovated government buildings, large retail and entertainment venues, and restaurants seating at least 60 customers.

20. Dental Benefits

Have been restored to the Medi-Cal program.

21. Ammunition

Purchases must be conducted through licensed ammunition vendors.

22. Sexual Harassment

Companies with 50 or more workers must provide supervisors with specified harassment and anti-bullying training biannually and exhibit approved posters regarding gender and transgender identity and expression rights.

23. Swimming Pools

Residential swimming pools must comply with new safety standards and be inspected upon sale.

24. Gender Identity

Persons may soon obtain new birth certificates and driver's licenses to conform their legal gender to their self-identified gender as female, male, or non-binary whether or not there has been clinical gender treatment.

This office serves as a Lawyer of First Resort™ advocating for small businesses and individuals with disputes and transactions, including accident victims by referral only. We specialize in personalized client service. If we can be of any assistance with your legal issues, consider contacting us as soon as a question is identified. Your recent referrals have been greatly appreciated.

Remember: Preventative Lawyering™ is the most effective kind.

Sincerely,

HARMON SIEFF

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Sieff-Newsletter-January-2018

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