

To sex workers in Amsterdam

Date
Our reference
Subject
Handled by
E-mail
Telephone

2014/
Important message about your work in the sex industry
Programme Prostitution
prostitutie@amsterdam.nl
14020

Dear Sir/Madam,

This letter is to inform you about important developments for you as a sex worker in Amsterdam. As you may know, a new ordinance is being introduced in Amsterdam in 2014. This is the Local General Ordinance for Prostitution (APV). The aim of this ordinance is to ensure that you, as a sex worker, are able to do your job safely. At various different times we have already advised you about what this means for your work through meetings, the website, P&G292 and other organisations.

In this letter we want to update you about the following developments:

1. Change relating to (enforcement of) the intake concerning self-reliance
2. Change relating to registration at the Chamber of Commerce (Kamer van Koophandel)

1. Enforcement of intake concerning self-reliance

Since November 2013, the brothel owner or your employer holds an intake interview with you. It has been established that more time is needed to properly design the intake. The previously stipulated start date of 1 March 2014 for the enforcement/monitoring of intake interviews has been postponed to a later date.

You will be informed as soon as a new start date is known. Brothel owners have been asked not to ask any questions or record any information about your mental and physical health, any addictions and your intelligence during intake interviews. These are highly personal details that for reasons of privacy may not be requested or recorded without your express permission.

This does not mean that no further intake interviews must be held. Brothel owners are required to ensure that there are no sex workers working in their company who are the victims of human trafficking or other forms of exploitation. The brothel owners assessment of your self-reliance is an important tool in this.

When a business operator has doubts about the degree of self-reliance based on his or her assessment, he or she is asked to refer you to the Prostitution Advice Team Amsterdam. The Advice Team (Advies Team) is available 5 days per week during office hours on the number: 06-19275737. The business operator is required to report any signs of human trafficking to the police.

2) Change relating to registration in trade register at the Chamber of Commerce (Kamer van Koophandel)

When you operate as an independent sex worker, also known as Self-Employed Professional, you are required to register in the commercial register at the Chamber of Commerce (KvK). Previously you could register as 'prostitute' or 'erotic service provider'. Since the end of 2013, you can register under the general category 'personal services'. Due to privacy, we advise you to arrange this change (free of charge) at the KvK. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce advises that you do not register under your own name, but to use a professional name or some other 'neutral' business name. Even if you are already registered with your own name as business name, we advise you to alter your registration at the KvK.

For added privacy, you can also have your private address kept confidential as long as you meet certain conditions. Even if you are already registered, you are advised to alter your registration at the KvK including confidentiality of your private address.

For more information please see the enclosed brochure.

The website www.amsterdam.nl/prostitutie also includes an explanation of how to change your registration at the KvK simply and without charge.

You will be given time to arrange the change. As a result, registration at the KvK will not be enforced for the time being. Superintendents will notify you of this option during checks. We will inform you in advance of the start date for enforcement of registration at the KvK.

Questions?

I hope that I have given you sufficient information. If you still have questions, you can send an e-mail to prostitutie@amsterdam.nl or call Programme Prostitution via the number 14020.

Sincerely,

Mayor of Amsterdam,

Mr. E.E. Van der Laan

Enclosed:

Brochure about registration at the Chamber of Commerce