

LICENSING, REGULATION AND ALCOHOL STRATEGY

Escort Agency Operator's Licence

What Does This Licence Allow Me To Do?

The holder of an Escort Agency Licence is permitted to operate an escort agency business as defined under the *Prostitution Regulation Act*. Such a business must involve two or more persons (i.e. the licensee and the licensee's worker/s) and is legally permitted to provide prostitution services at a place other than the place of business of the agency. Prostitution services are sexual services of any description provided for payment or reward. Holders of Escort Agency Licences may be individuals or registered companies.

Are There Any Special Conditions Or Restrictions?

Any person or company owning an escort agency business must hold an Escort Agency Licence. If the owner of the business does not manage its day-to-day operations, a person must be employed as manager. This manager must hold an Escort Agency Manager's Licence.

Holders of Escort Agency Licences must obtain, for any sex worker engaged by the agency, a certificate from the Commissioner of Police.

Brothels are illegal in the Northern Territory. This means that premises cannot be set aside as a place where sexual services are provided. Escort agencies must therefore ensure that sexual services are provided a hotel room, provided that the arrangement for the provision of sexual services is made in a location other than the hotel.

An applicant for an Escort Agency Licence must comply with a range of conditions. These include requirements that the applicant:

- be over the age of 18 years and a continuing resident of the Northern Territory
- not have any conviction for a disqualifying offence (see below)
- not be in a personal or business relationship with a person who has been convicted of a disqualifying offence
- comply with Standard Conditions of Licence including those relating to safe sexual practices, terms and conditions of sex workers employed and financial records.

Disqualifying offences are breaches of the specific provisions of the *Prostitution Regulation Act*, the *Misuse of Drugs Act* and the Criminal Code. A list of these breaches, cross-referenced to legislation, is provided in the publication

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Darwin

Level 1, Enterprise House
28-30 Knuckey Street, Darwin
GPO Box 1154, Darwin, NT 0801
Ph: 08 8999 1800
Fax: 08 8999 1888

Katherine

18 Katherine Terrace, Katherine
GPO Box 2138, Katherine NT 0850
Ph: 08 8972 8906
Fax: 08 8972 8910

Alice Springs

1st Floor Belvedere Hse
Cnr Parsons & Bath Sts
GPO Box 8470, Alice Springs NT 0871
Ph: 08 8951 5195
Fax: 08 8951 8591

Questions and Answers on the Operation of the *Prostitution Regulation Act*. The publication also contains the Standard Conditions of Licence.

The *Prostitution Regulation Act* allows a person to conduct an independent escort agency business without holding an Escort Agency Licence, provided that the person has no association with anyone else in the conduct of the business.

What Is The Application Process?

Before applying, consider your willingness to undergo a police check and your ability to provide all supporting information required.

At the time of initial application, a completed application form must be accompanied by the relevant fee*

Information requested on the application form includes:

- names (past and present)
- addresses (past and present)
- other personal details
- details of any convictions for disqualifying offences
- details of business and personal relationships
- in the case of a company, a copy of the certificate of incorporation executed under the seal of the company

After you have submitted the completed application form, fee* and supporting information, allow up to three weeks for processing. The processed application is then submitted for consideration at the next scheduled meeting of the Escort Agency Licensing Commission, Northern Territory Licensing Commission. If you are a first time applicant for an Escort Agency Licence, the Board will seek to interview you when considering your application.

Do I Need Any Special Knowledge, Experience Or Training?

You should be familiar with the Prostitution Regulation Act.

How Long Is The Licence Valid And What Is The Process For Renewal?

The licence is valid for 12 months. To renew your licence, complete a renewal form and pay the annual fee*. This must be done no less than two months before the licence expiry.

Lodgment Of Forms

Forms may be lodged at any Territory Business Centre.

Appeals And Objections

If you are not satisfied with the initial response to any application described in this information sheet, phone the Director of Licensing on (08) 8999 1800.

**Please refer to the relevant schedule of fees.*