

## CHAPTER 119: SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES

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### ***Cross-reference:***

*Location of sexually oriented businesses, see §§ 150.05, 153.05*

### **§ 119.01 PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this chapter is to prescribe licensing requirements for sexually oriented businesses to protect the public health, safety, and welfare and to prevent criminal activity and the spread of sexually-transmitted diseases. This chapter is intended to supercede the provisions of M.S. § 617.242, as it may be amended from time to time, and render M.S. § 617.242 inapplicable as authorized by the statute.

### **§ 119.02 FINDINGS.**

The City Council makes the following findings regarding the effect sexually oriented businesses have on the character of the city's neighborhoods. In making these findings, the City Council accepts

the recommendations and conclusions of the *Report of the Attorney General's Working Group on the Regulation of Sexually Oriented Businesses* dated June 6, 1989, a copy of which is referenced and included in Appendix II of this chapter. This chapter shall have no force and effect until the City Council accepts these recommendations by resolution of a majority of its members, using the model resolution contained in Appendix I of this chapter.

(A) Sexually oriented businesses can contribute to an increase in criminal activity in the area in which such businesses are located, increasing the demands on city crime-prevention programs and law enforcement services.

(B) Sexually oriented businesses can be used as fronts for prostitution and other criminal activity. The experience of other cities indicates that proper management and operation of such businesses can minimize this risk.

(C) Sexually oriented businesses can increase the risk of exposure to communicable diseases, including Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), for which there is currently no cure. Experiences of other cities indicate that such businesses can facilitate the spread of communicable diseases by virtue of the design and use of the premises, endangering not only the patrons of such establishments but also the general public.

(D) Sexually oriented businesses can cause or contribute to public health problems by the presence of live adult entertainment in conjunction with food and/or drink on the same premises.

(E) A licensing and regulatory scheme as prescribed in this chapter can facilitate the enforcement of the city's "anti-blight" regulations, as set forth in Chapter 153 of this code, and can aid in monitoring sexually oriented businesses for adverse secondary effects on the community.

(F) The risk of criminal activity and/or public health problems can be minimized through a licensing and regulatory scheme as prescribed in this chapter.

### § 119.03 DEFINITIONS.

The following words and terms have the following meanings when used in this chapter.

**SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESS.** Shall include the following:

(1) A business that meets any of the following criteria, measured on a daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly basis:

(a) Has more than 25% of its inventory, stock-in-trade, or publicly displayed merchandise in sexually oriented materials;

(b) Devotes more than 25% of its floor area (not including storerooms, stock areas, bathrooms, basements, or any portion of the business not open to the public) to sexually oriented materials; or

(c) Derives more than 25% of its gross revenues from sexually oriented materials; or

(2) A business that engages for any length of time in a sexually oriented use as defined in this section or any other use that has an emphasis on specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

**SEXUALLY ORIENTED MATERIALS.** Visual, printed, or aural materials, and other objects or devices, that:

(1) Contain, depict, simulate or describe specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas; or

(2) Are marketed for use in conjunction with, or are primarily used only with or during specified sexual activities; or

(3) Are designed for sexual stimulation.

**SEXUALLY ORIENTED USE.** Any of the following activities and businesses, even if the activity exists for only a short-time:

(1) **ADULT BODY PAINTING STUDIO.** An establishment or business that provides the service of applying paint, ink, or other substance, whether transparent or non-transparent, to the body of a patron when the person is nude.

(2) **ADULT BOOKSTORE.** An establishment or business used for the barter, rental, or sale of items consisting of printed matter, pictures, slides, records, audiotape, videotape, movies, or motion picture film if it meets the criteria established in the definition of "sexually oriented business," as defined in this section.

(3) **ADULT CABARET.** A business or establishment that provides dancing or other live entertainment distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on:

(a) The depiction of nudity, specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas;  
or

(b) The presentation, display, or depiction of matter that seeks to evoke, arouse, or excite sexual or erotic feelings or desire.

(4) **ADULT COMPANIONSHIP ESTABLISHMENT.** A business or establishment that provides the service of engaging in or listening to conversation, talk, or discussion distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

(5) **ADULT CONVERSATION/RAP PARLOR.** A business or establishment that provides the services of engaging in or listening to conversation, talk, or discussion distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

(6) **ADULT HEALTH/SPORT CLUB.** A health/sport club that is distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

(7) **ADULT HOTEL OR MOTEL.** A hotel or motel that presents material distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on matter depicting, describing or relating to specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

(8) **ADULT MASSAGE PARLOR/HEALTH CLUB.** A massage parlor or health club that provides massage services distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

(9) **ADULT MINI-MOTION PICTURE THEATER.** A business or establishment with a capacity of less than 50 persons that, as a prevailing practice, presents on-premises viewing of movies, motion pictures, or other material distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

(10) **ADULT MODELING STUDIO.** A business or establishment that provides live models who, with the intent of providing sexual stimulation or sexual gratification, engage in specified sexual activities or display specified anatomical areas while being observed, painted, painted upon, sketched, drawn, sculptured, photographed, or otherwise depicted.

(11) **ADULT MOTION PICTURE ARCADE.** Any place to which the public is permitted or invited where coin or slug-operated or electronically, electrically, or mechanically controlled or operated still or motion picture machines, projectors, or other image-producing devices are used to show images to five or fewer persons per machine at any one time, and where the images so displayed are distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on depicting or describing specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

(12) **ADULT MOTION PICTURE THEATER.** A motion picture theater with a capacity of 50 or more persons that, as a prevailing practice, presents material distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas for observation by patrons.

(13) **ADULT NOVELTY BUSINESS.** An establishment or business that has a variety of items for sale if it meets the criteria established in division (1) of the definition of "sexually oriented business" defined in this section.

(14) **ADULT SAUNA.** A sauna that excludes minors by reason of age, and that provides a steam bath or heat bathing room used for the purpose of bathing, relaxation, or reducing, if the service provided by the sauna is distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

(15) **ADULT STEAM ROOM/BATHHOUSE FACILITY.** A building or portion of a building used for providing a steam bath or heat bathing room used for the purpose of pleasure, bathing, relaxation, or reducing, if the building or portion of a building restricts minors by reason of age and if the service provided by the steam room/bathhouse facility is distinguished or characterized by an emphasis on specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas.

**SPECIFIED ANATOMICAL AREAS.** Shall include the following:

- (1) Less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals, pubic area, buttocks, anus, or female breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola; and
- (2) Human male genitals in a state of sexual arousal, whether or not completely and opaquely covered.

**SPECIFIED SEXUAL ACTIVITIES.** Shall include the following:

- (1) Actual or simulated: sexual intercourse; oral copulation; anal intercourse; oral-anal copulation; bestiality; direct physical stimulation of unclothed genitals; flagellation or torture in the context of a sexual relationship; the use of excretory functions in the context of a sexual relationship; anilingus; coprophagy; coprophilia; cunnilingus; fellatio; necrophilia; pedophilia; piquerism or zoerastia;
- (2) Clearly depicted human genitals in the state of sexual stimulation, arousal or tumescence;
- (3) Use of human or animal ejaculation, sodomy, oral copulation, coitus or masturbation;
- (4) Fondling or touching of nude human genitals, pubic regions, buttocks, or female breasts;
- (5) Situations involving a person or persons, any of whom are nude, who are clad in undergarments or in sexually revealing costumes and engaged in the flagellation, torture, fettering, binding or other physical restraint of any person;
- (6) Erotic or lewd touching, fondling or other sexually oriented contact with an animal by a human being; or
- (7) Human excretion, urination, menstruation or vaginal or anal irrigation.

**§ 119.04 EXCEPTIONS.**

This chapter does not regulate the following:

- (A) Material with significant literary content or social commentary;
- (B) A business where sexually oriented materials are sold, bartered, distributed, leased, furnished, or otherwise provided for off-site use or entertainment, if the sexually oriented material on each item is blocked from view by an opaque cover as required under M.S. § 617.293, as it may be amended from time to time, and each item is in an area accessible only by an employee of the business;
- (C) A person or organization exempted under M.S. § 617.295;
- (D) Activity regulated under M.S. § 617.202;
- (E) Displaying works of art showing specified anatomical areas, so long as no sexually oriented materials are for sale, and the business does not have a liquor license; and
- (F) Movies rated G, PG, PG-13, NC-17 or R.

**§ 119.05 LICENSE REQUIRED.**

No person may own or operate a sexually oriented business within the city unless the person is currently licensed under this chapter.  
Penalty, see § 119.99

**§ 119.06 PERSONS INELIGIBLE.**

No license may be issued to a person who:

- (A) Is not a citizen of the United States or a resident alien;
- (B) Is a minor at the time the application is filed;
- (C) Has been convicted of a crime directly related to the licensed occupation and has not shown competent evidence of sufficient rehabilitation and present fitness to perform the duties of the owner, operator or manager of a sexually oriented business under M.S. § 364.03, Subd. 3, as it may be amended from time to time, or a person not of good moral character and repute;
- (D) Holds a liquor license under Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances Chapter 112.
- (E) In the judgment of the licensing authority, is not the real party in interest or beneficial owner of the business operated under the license;

(F) Has had a license for a sexually oriented business or similar business revoked anywhere within five years of the license application; or  
Penalty, see § 119.99

**§ 119.07 PLACES INELIGIBLE.**

No license may be issued for:

- (A) A place or a business ineligible for a license under city ordinance or state law;
- (B) Operation in a zoning district where the business is not allowed pursuant to Chapter 153 of this code;
- (C) A place or business that is currently licensed as a tattoo establishment, pawnshop, massage business or establishment that sells alcoholic beverages; or
- (D) Operation on a premises on which taxes, assessments or other financial claims of the city or other government agency are delinquent and unpaid, unless the non-payment is not under the control of the applicant.  
Penalty, see § 119.99

**§ 119.08 LICENSE APPLICATION.**

- (A) The application for a sexually oriented business license under this chapter must be made on a form supplied by the city and must provide the following information:
  - (1) The business in connection with which the proposed license will operate;
  - (2) The location of the business premises;
  - (3) The legal description of the premises to be licensed, including a map of the area for which the license is sought, showing dimensions, locations of buildings, street access and parking facilities;
  - (4) Whether all real estate and personal property taxes that are due and payable for the premises to be licensed have been paid, and if not paid, the years and amounts that are unpaid;

- (5) Whether the applicant is the owner and operator of the business and if not, who is;
- (6) Whether the applicant has ever used or been known by a name other than his or her true name, and if so, what was the name or names, and information concerning dates and places where used;
- (7) Whether the applicant is married or single. If married, the true name, place and date of birth and street address of applicant's spouse;
- (8) Street address at which the applicant and spouse have lived during the preceding ten years;
- (9) Kind, name and location of every business or occupation the applicant and spouse have been engaged in during the preceding ten years;
- (10) Names and addresses of the applicant's and spouse's employers and partners, if any, for the preceding ten years;
- (11) Whether the applicant or spouse has ever been convicted of a violation of a state law or local ordinance, other than a non-alcohol related traffic offense. If so, the applicant must furnish information as to the time, place and offense for which convictions were had;
- (12) Whether the applicant or spouse has ever been engaged as an employee or in operating a sexually oriented business, massage business, or other business of a similar nature. If so, the applicant must furnish information as to the time, place and length of time;
- (13) Whether the applicant has ever been in military service. If so, the applicant must, upon request, exhibit all discharges;
- (14) If the applicant is a partnership, the name and address of all partners and all information concerning each partner as is required of a single applicant as above. A managing partner or partners must be designated. The interest of each partner or partners in the business must be submitted with the application and, if the partnership is required to file a certificate as to trade name under the provisions of M.S. Ch. 333, as it may be amended from time to time, a copy of the certificate must be attached to the application;
- (15) If the applicant is a corporation or other organization, the applicant must submit the following:
  - (a) Name, and if incorporated, the state of incorporation;
  - (b) Names and addresses of all officers;
  - (c) The name of the manager or proprietor or other agent in charge of, or to be in charge of the premises to be licensed, giving all information about said person as is required in the case of a single applicant; and



(d) A list of all persons who, single or together with their spouse, own or control an interest in said corporation or association in excess of 5% or who are officers of said corporation or association, together with their addresses and all information as is required for a single applicant.

(16) The amount of the investment that the applicant has in the business, land, building, premises, fixtures, furniture or stock-in-trade, and proof of the source of the money;

(17) A list of responsible persons, including the names of owners, managers and assistant managers, who may be notified or contacted by state or city employees in case of emergency. These persons must be residents of the state;

(18) Whether the applicant holds a current license for a sexually oriented business or similar business from another governmental unit;

(19) Whether the applicant has ever been denied a license for a sexually oriented business or similar business from another governmental unit; and

(20) Other information that the city deems appropriate.

(B) No person may make a false statement or material omission in a license application or investigation. A false statement or material omission is grounds for denial, suspension or revocation of a license.

(C) Each licensee has the continuing duty to properly notify the Director of Community Development of a change in the information or facts required to be furnished on the application for a license. This duty continues throughout the period of the license. Failure to comply with this section will constitute cause for revocation or suspension of the license.

(D) The application for the renewal of an existing license must be made at least 90 days prior to the date of the expiration of the license and must be made on the form which the city provides. Penalty, see § 119.99

#### § 119.09 FEES.

(A) An applicant for a license must pay to the city the investigation fee specified in the Ordinance Establishing Fees and Charges, adopted pursuant to § 30.11 of this code, as that ordinance may be amended from time to time. This fee will be for the purpose of conducting a preliminary background and financial investigation of the applicant. If the city believes that the public interest so warrants, it may require a similar investigation at the time of renewal of a license. If an investigation is ordered at the time of license renewal, the applicant must pay the fee specified above, except that the fee will be the smaller of the stated dollar amount or the actual cost of the investigation. There will be no refund of the investigation fee after the investigation has begun.

(B) The annual fees for a license are set forth in the Ordinance Establishing Fees and Charges, adopted pursuant to § 30.11 of this code, as that ordinance may be amended from time to time.

(C) Each license expires on December 31 of the year in which it is issued. Fees for licenses issued during the license year will be prorated according to the number of months remaining in the year. For this purpose an unexpired fraction of a month will be counted as a whole month having elapsed.

(D) No refund of a fee will be made except as authorized by ordinance.

### § 119.10 GRANTING OF LICENSES.

(A) No license may be issued until the Police Department, or the county Sheriff, if the city has no Police Department, has conducted an investigation of the representations set forth in the application, the applicant's moral character, and the applicant's financial status. All applicants must cooperate this investigation.

(B) No license, except for a renewed license, may be issued for a sexually oriented business until the Council has held a public hearing. Notice of the hearing must be made in the same manner as that specified in Chapter 151 of this code, for a zoning ordinance amendment affecting district boundaries. The Council must grant the license unless the applicant or the location does not meet the requirements of the city code, the application was incomplete, or the application contained false information or a material omission. If the application is denied, the city must notify the applicant with the reason(s) stated for denial. Notification must be sent certified, United States mail, return receipt requested, to the address provided on the license application. If the Council fails to act on the application within 45 days after receipt of a complete application, the application will be deemed approved. An applicant wishing to appeal the action of the City Council may seek a writ of certiorari before the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

(C) (1) The City Council may issue a license before an investigation, notice and public hearing for an applicant who:

(a) Had a license within the previous five years for the establishment that is specified in the application and that is continuing to operate under a license;

(b) Wishes to resume operation of the business without sufficient time, through no fault of his or her own, to meet the normal procedural requirements;

(c) Had no criminal license convictions, or license suspensions or revocations during the prior licensed period; and

(d) Otherwise qualifies and meets the requirements for a license.

(2) In this situation, the City Council may immediately issue an interim license to the applicant for a period of no longer than 90 days. The applicant must then proceed through the specified requirements for an investigation, notice, and public hearing. At the public hearing the Council will decide whether the license should continue in effect or be revoked. The applicant has no greater right to continuation of the license than he or she would have had to issuance of a new license following the normal procedure without the interim license.

(D) A license will be issued only to the applicant and for the premises described in the application. No license may be transferred to another person or place without application in the same manner as an application for a new license. Transfer of 25% or more of the stock of a corporation or of a controlling interest of it, whichever is less, will be deemed a transfer of the license. If the licensee is a corporation that is wholly owned by another corporation, the same provisions about the transfer of a stock or a controlling interest will apply to that parent corporation, any second parent corporation that wholly owns the parent corporation, and all other similarly situated parent corporations up through the chain of ownership. Transfer of this amount of stock without prior Council approval is a ground for revocation or suspension of the license. In addition, each day the licensee operates under the license after a transfer has taken place without obtaining Council approval will be a separate violation of this chapter.

(E) In the case of the death of a licensee, the personal representative of a licensee may continue operation of the business for not more than 90 days after the licensee's death.

#### § 119.11 CONDITIONS OF LICENSE.

(A) A license is subject to the conditions in this section, all other provisions of this chapter, and of other applicable regulations, ordinances or state laws.

(B) A licensee is responsible for the conduct of his or her place of business and the conditions of order in it. The act of an employee of the licensed premises is deemed the act of the licensee as well, and the licensee is liable for all penalties provided by this chapter equally with the employee, except criminal penalties.

(C) The license must be posted in a conspicuous place in the premises for which it is used.  
Penalty, see § 119.99

#### § 119.12 RESTRICTIONS AND REGULATIONS.

A sexually oriented business is subject to the following restrictions and regulations:

(A) No owner, manager or employee may allow sexually oriented materials or entertainment to be visible or perceivable in any manner, including aurally, at any time from outside of the business.

(B) No owner, manager or employee may allow a person under the age of 18 to enter the business.

(C) No owner, manager or employee may allow a person under the age of 18 to have access to sexually oriented materials, whether by sight, purchase, touch or other means.

(D) No owner or manager may employ a person under the age of 18 on the licensed premises.

(E) No owner, manager, or employee may have been convicted of a sex crime, as identified in M.S. §§ 609.293 to 609.352, 609.746 to 609.749, 609.79 or 518B.01, as they may be amended from time to time, or related statute dealing with sexual assault, sexual conduct, harassment, obscenity, or domestic abuse within the past five years.

(F) No business may exceed 10,000 square feet in gross floor area.

(G) No owner, manager or employee may allow a patron, employee, or other person on the premises to physically contact, in public view, a specified anatomical area of himself or herself or of another person, except that a live performer may touch himself or herself.

(H) A live performer must remain at all times a minimum distance of ten feet from members of the audience, and must perform on a platform intended for that purpose, that must be raised at least two feet from the level of the floor on which the audience is located. No performer may solicit or accept money, a tip, or other item from a member of the audience.

(I) No business may have booths, stalls, partitioned portions of a room, or individual rooms, except as follows:

(1) Restrooms are allowed as long as they are no larger than reasonably necessary to serve the purposes of a restroom, no other activities are provided or allowed in the rooms, and there are no chairs, benches, or reclining surfaces in the rooms; and

(2) Storage rooms and private offices are allowed, if the storage rooms and offices are used solely for running the business and no person other than the owner, manager and employees is allowed in them.

(J) A licensee must not be open for business to the public:

(1) Between 1:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on the days of Monday through Saturday; and

(2) Between 1:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on Sundays.

Penalty, see § 119.99

**§ 119.13 SUSPENSIONS AND REVOCATIONS OF LICENSE.**

(A) *Delinquent taxes.* The City Council may suspend or revoke a license issued under this chapter for operation on a premises on which real estate taxes, assessments or other financial claims of the city or of the state are due, delinquent, or unpaid, unless the non-payment is not under the control of the licensee. If an action has been commenced under M.S. Ch. 278, as it may be amended from time to time, questioning the amount or validity of taxes, the Council may on application by the licensee waive strict compliance with this provision; no waiver may be granted, however, for taxes, or a portion of them, that remain unpaid for a period exceeding one year after becoming due, unless the one-year period is extended through no fault of the licensee.

(B) *Violations.*

(1) The Council may either suspend for up to 60 days or revoke a license for a violation upon a finding that the licensee or an agent or employee of the licensee has failed to comply with an applicable statute, regulation or ordinance relating to the subject matter of this chapter or violated the statutes in division (B)(2) of this section. No suspension or revocation will take effect until the licensee has been afforded an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to M.S. §§ 14.57 to 14.69, as they may be amended from time to time, with the exception of the suspension provided for in division (B)(2) of this section.

(2) Conviction of a sex crime, as identified in M.S. §§ 609.293 to 609.352, 609.746 to 609.749, 609.79 or 518B.01, as they may be amended from time to time, or related statute dealing with sexual assault, sexual conduct, harassment, obscenity or domestic abuse by the licensee will result in the immediate suspension pending a hearing on revocation of a license issued under this chapter.

(C) *Prompt judicial review.* Prompt and final judicial review shall be provided to any applicant or licensee when a license is denied, suspended or revoked.

**§ 119.99 PENALTY.**

Except as otherwise provided by state law, a person violating a provision of this chapter is subject to the penalties established in § 10.99. A fine or sentence imposed does not affect the right of the city to suspend or revoke the license of the licensee as the Council deems appropriate.

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APPENDIX I

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE FINDINGS OF THE REPORT  
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S WORKING GROUP ON  
THE REGULATION OF SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES**

WHEREAS because of its small size, the city lacks the resources to investigate and research the impact sexually oriented businesses would have on the character of the city's neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS the city intends to rely on the *Report of the Attorney General's Working Group on the Regulation of Sexually Oriented Businesses*, dated June 6, 1989, which is included as Appendix II to Chapter 119 of the Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances, as a basis for regulating sexually oriented businesses in this city; and

WHEREAS the members of the City Council have reviewed this Report;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of this City hereby accepts the recommendations and conclusions of this Report and adopts the recommendations and conclusions by reference of the *Report of the Attorney General's Working Group on the Regulation of Sexually Oriented Businesses*, dated June 6, 1989; and by passage of this resolution implements the provisions of Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances Chapters 119 and 153.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Note: If this resolution is being adopted only to implement the provisions of Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances § 150.05, then the words "and by passage of this resolution implements the provisions of Minnesota Basic Code of Ordinances Chapters 119 and 153" in the last paragraph above should be deleted from the resolution.





**APPENDIX II**

***REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S WORKING GROUP  
ON THE REGULATION OF SEXUALLY ORIENTED BUSINESSES***

