

NORTHERN TERRITORY

WHAT IS LEGAL:

- **Private Workers:** are not required to be registered with the police or licensed through the Licensing Commission. Within the legislation for the Northern Territory, *everyone* is considered as an escort business, however, a worker only needs to apply for a licence to work with or employ other people. As a private worker, a person must arrange jobs for only themselves, and must not arrange or organise the service from the same place as where the service is provided. Workers have to work from hotels and are not supposed to deliver services at private residences or any premises other than a pay-by-night hotel.
- **Escort Agencies:** The operator is the person who owns the business. The manager is the person who manages the running of the business. To be eligible to get an operator's or manager's licence, a person must be 18 years or older, a resident of the Northern Territory, have no convictions of a 'disqualifying offence' (mostly violent or drug related crimes), or have a business or domestic partner who has convictions for a disqualifying offence. Workers for Escort agencies must have a certificate to work from the police (arranged by the manager of the agency), which is also subject to the 'disqualifying offences' checks. This process acts as a registration and once registered this information is kept on file for the rest of your life and can be access by all police in the NT and noationally by request.
Each worker for an escort agency, must have a contract which outlines the terms and conditions of how the agency will arrange services and how the worker will provide the services.
- **Advertising:** Advertising for 'prostitution services' in newspapers is ok, so long as ads are placed in the 'Adult Entertainment' section of the classifieds. Photographs can only be from the shoulders up, and physical descriptions, references to age, race colour or ethnicity are not permitted. The phrases 'erotic massage' or 'erotic masseuse' are permitted. Newspaper ads must not be bigger than 3.5x4.5cm. It is also permissible to advertise on T-shirts, distribute brochures to Hotels and Motels, sponsor sporting or charity events, and hand out business cards (as long as they don't refer to 'prostitution services' and to have a website.

WHAT IS ILLEGAL:

- **Street Work** and soliciting are illegal. It is an offence to stand in a public place in order to get work-whether it is for money or other payments.
- **Persons under the Age of 18** people under the age of 18 are not permitted to work (even as a receptionist), in the sex industry. It is also illegal for a person under the age of 18 to obtain commercial sex services.
- **Brothels are** illegal. Specifically, a person may not use the same premises to organise and provide a sexual service. It is also illegal for workers to work together without obtaining a licence to do so.
- **Advertising** on radio or TV is illegal

The Northern Territory's State Sex Worker Support Organisation is **SWOP NT** and can be contacted at:

<http://www.ntahc.org.au/swop.htm>

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