

Christchurch City Council



CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL BROTHELS (LOCATION AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL SERVICES SIGNAGE) BYLAW 2013

The Christchurch City Council has adopted the 2013 Christchurch City Council Brothels (Location and Commercial Sexual Services Signage) Bylaw. The new Bylaw comes into effect on 15 April 2013, except that existing small owner-operated brothels operating from a multi-unit residential complex have until 31 March 2014 before they are no longer able to operate from their current premises.

Copies of the 2013 Bylaw are available on the Council website www.ccc.govt.nz and at Council libraries and service centres.

The object of the Bylaw is to:

- (a) restrict the location of brothels to certain parts of the district, with no restriction on the location of small owner-operated brothels; and
- (b) provide that no brothel, including small owner-operated brothels, can be located in a multi-unit residential complex (although as noted above, existing small owner-operated brothels have until 31 March 2014 to comply); and
- (c) provide for specified existing brothels to remain in their current locations; and
- (d) control signage that advertises commercial sexual services, that is in, or is visible from, a public place, on the basis such signs are likely to cause a nuisance or serious offence to members of the public using parts of the district or they are incompatible with the existing character or use of parts of the district, by:
 - (i) prohibiting signs in certain parts of the Council's district; and
 - (ii) regulating the display of signs in other parts of the district through the controls in this Bylaw.

The Bylaw delineates areas in Christchurch where operator-run brothels may be operated, as shown by shaded areas marked in maps accompanying the Bylaw.

Brothels exempted from the location controls are listed in Schedule 2 of the Bylaw. Subject to any applicable District Plan provisions related to home-based businesses, small owner-operated brothels may be operated anywhere in the district, apart from in a multi-unit residential complex.

Signage controls apply to all brothels (including those exempt from location controls) from the date this Bylaw comes into force.

Signage advertising commercial sexual services is to be confined within the area of the map in which the operator-run brothels are permitted and are not permitted even then if the sign is visible from any point on a school boundary. Only one sign is permitted for any one premises, even if those premises have more than one street frontage.

Permitted signage:

- (a) must be attached to the premises at which the commercial sexual services it advertises are provided; and
- (b) must clearly display the number of the premises to which the sign relates; and
- (c) must not be offensive; and
- (d) must not display any pictorial image; and
- (e) must not exceed 0.3 square metres in surface area; and
- (f) must not be illuminated by any flashing light.

Any breach of this Bylaw is potentially liable to a maximum fine of \$20,000.

Further information can be requested by calling the Council's Call Centre on 941 8999 or for Banks Peninsula 0800 800 169.

Clare Sullivan
COUNCIL SECRETARY

www.ccc.govt.nz