



## **Injury Law | Business Law | Commercial Litigation**

5/12/2020

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis,

I am writing on behalf of my clients Carlos “Litos” Pinto and Julie Pinto. The Pintos own Forbidden Images Tattoo Art Studio, a family business in Trinity, Florida which has been located in Pasco County for 42 years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, their business was closed when Executive Order 20-91 was enacted and is awaiting a directive from your office allowing them to re-open. Upon the suggestion of the Florida Department of Health and your staff in the Florida Governor’s Office, we are writing to express their position as businessowners on the guidelines for re-opening the state during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the beginning of this unpredictable situation, the Pintos have been responsible businessowners by reviewing and following all Centers for Disease Control, Florida Department of Health, and other official guidelines. They have educated themselves and made several adjustments in order to ensure the safety of their families, friends, clients, and local citizens. As a result, they are prepared to take measures including:

*Studio Protocols:*

- Serving clients by appointment only, at the time of their appointment without guests
- Requiring customers wear a face covering as much as practically possible while inside the studio
- Enforcing a capacity of no more than ten persons in the studio at any time
- Screening clients prior to entry with an infrared body temperature thermometer and inquiring about health status
- Following CDC guidelines for disinfection and hygiene including having customers sanitize their hands before touching surfaces or signing documents, having staff disinfect surfaces before closing

*Artist Protocols:*

- Screening artists for symptoms prior to each shift before allowing entry to the facility, and denying entry to anyone with symptoms
- Requiring artists to wear face masks, disposable gloves, and disposable arm sleeve covers. Face shields are available in the studio if needed.
- Spacing artists twelve feet apart
- Requiring that written protocols are kept visible to clients

These measures are in addition to the universal sterilization procedures from local health department and maintaining standards required for the state inspection and random inspections. They Pintos have extensive experience and training in blood borne pathogens and prevention of cross contamination. And, perhaps most importantly, they have a common-sense plan which can be enacted easily in the business.

The Pintos business and others in the same category, are capable of re-opening in a manner that meets the Guiding Principles for Re-Opening and General Mitigation Guidance explained in the *Report to Governor DeSantis from the Re-Open Florida Task Force*. However, it has not been included in Phase One of the re-opening plan despite the Re-open Florida Task Force making a non-exhaustive list on page 21 of the Report which uses the term “such as” to precede a list of personal care services. Currently, Executive Order 20-120 allows the exclusive list of “Barbershops, Cosmetology Salons, and Cosmetology Specialty Salons” to open.

Tattoo studios are able to take measures comparable to those of salons and barbershops, the other personal care services allowed to re-open. The precautions listed above which the Pintos are able to implement exceed the measures suggested in the *Report* for personal services business as well as those outlined by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation as Executive Order 20-120 requires.

For this reason, we respectfully suggest you consider allowing tattoo studios to be included in upcoming Executive Orders or any other regulatory mandates for the re-opening of Florida businesses. We strongly believe that tattoo studios should be included in Phase 1 as the *Report* does not indicate that the type of personal services businesses should be limited or that such a limitation would benefit the health and safety of the citizenry.

We are confident that the Pintos studio can re-open while maintaining a safe environment for all and prepared this letter to provide your office with the same confidence in tattoo studios statewide. We wish to be a part of a safe and healthy solution for managing the COVID-19 crisis while getting Floridians back to work and enjoying the artistry of their staff.

Sincerely,

/s/

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