

Operating an Essential Services Business during COVID-19 Lock Down

Background

Members of the South African Police Service (SAPS), South African National Defence Force (SANDF) and peace officers are expected to enforce compliance with the COVID-19 Regulations. However, we are aware that there have been a number of instances that enforcement officers have misinterpreted or misapplied the COVID-19 Regulations for example:

- Businesses being advised that their services or goods are not essential;
- Transporters of essential goods being stopped and advised that they may not operate;
- Businesses being asked to produce certain documentation which is not actually required by law;
- Law enforcement insisting that businesses implement procedures that are not required by law; and
- Employees of essential services are being told they cannot travel to work as they are not part of an essential service or their documentation is not correct.

Application

This document is intended to provide practical guidance to businesses that provide essential business services and its employees during the COVID-19 lockdown period who are dealing with enforcement officers.

What to do

1. Stay Calm and Be Respectful
2. Understand the complaint and respond
3. Produce relevant documentation
4. Only if you can't resolve the problem, reach out to the a Provincial SAPS Commissioner or an attorney, as appropriate

Provincial SAPS Commissioners			
Gauteng	Elias Mawela, Lt. Gen. (Provincial Commissioner) T: 011 274 7875 T: 011 274 7860	North West	Baile Brenda Motswenyane, Lt. Gen. (Provincial Commissioner) T: 018 285 8073 T: 018 285 8069
Western Cape	Sindile Christopher Mfazi, Lt. Gen. (Acting Provincial Commissioner) T: 021 417 7148	Mpumalanga	Bethuel Mondli Zuma, Lt Gen (Provincial Commissioner) T: 013 762 4537 T: 013 762 4838
Northern Cape	Risimata Peter Shivuri, Lt. Gen. (Provincial Commissioner) T: 053 839 2845 T: 053 839 2877	Free State	Moeketsi David Sempe, Lt. Gen. (Provincial Commissioner) T: 051 507 6561 T: 051 507 6562
Eastern Cape	Lizwe Ntshinga, Lt. Gen. (Provincial Commissioner) T: 040 608 8413 T: 040 608 8415	Limpopo	Nneke Jim Ledwaba, Lt. Gen. (Provincial Commissioner) T: 015 290 6227
Kwazulu Natal	Khombinkos Elvis Jula, Lt. Gen. (Provincial Commissioner) T: 031 325 6580	Head: Marketing & Liaison Services	Oniccah Seemise, Gen. Major T: 012 393 2916 M: 072 307 3079

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Mendel Sass (Bowmans) M:082 805 8691	Rael Gootkin (Werksmans) M: 082 774 5781	

*If have a relationship with a criminal lawyer / law firm, please try to contact them to assist you. Alternatively, if you are unable to reach your preferred lawyer you may direct urgent queries mentioned in this document to the attorneys listed in this document. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of attorneys who may be able to assist you and is not intended to endorse any attorney or firm of attorneys. You are responsible for assessing which legal representative will be appropriate for your requirements.