



Stadt Bielefeld

Prostitution Protection Law

 www.bielefeld.de

Information

- Registration procedure
- Rights and duties

Englisch

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Information leaflet concerning prostitution protection law

Prostitution Protection Law

Since 1 July 2017, new regulations concerning prostitutes and prostitution businesses have been in force in Germany, aimed at protecting you and strengthening your right to autonomy. The main purpose is to provide you with better access to detailed information regarding your rights and duties and to support you in exercising your rights as well as receiving help if necessary.

Prostitution is allowed in Germany if it is carried out of your own free will and if you are over 18 years of age. Pimping, exploitation, enforced prostitution human trafficking and the sexual abuse of minors are all forbidden by law in the whole of Germany. It is a criminal offence to commit any of these acts.

This protection law applies for you if you offer sexual activities in return for payment. It makes no difference whether you offer your services in a brothel, on the street, in your own apartment or if you work as an escort, etc.

Performances of a show character, where no other person present is sexually active, such as table dance, are not included in this law.

Two-step registration

In accordance with the prostitution protection law, you should register your activities in person at the district town clerk's office (Ordnungsamt) where you mainly work. The districts of Gütersloh, Herford, Höxter, Lippe, Minden-Lübbecke, Paderborn und Stadt Bielefeld have joined together in a central registration office in Bielefeld. So if you mainly work in one of the above-mentioned districts or in Stadt Bielefeld, your place of registration is Bielefeld..

Step 1 – Health Advice

Before you register personally at the town clerk's office (see Step 2) you need a certificate confirming that you have attended the health advisory service at the Public Health Department (Gesundheitsamt). This health advisory service is free of charge.

What is the health advisory service?

The health advisory service mainly covers subjects like protection against disease, pregnancy, contraception, as well as the risks involved in drug and alcohol abuse. There is **no** physical examination.

Important: Everything said during the service is confidential, your information will not be passed on. If you need help or advice, whether it is concerning health or other matters or not, you can speak about it.

If you do not speak any or only a little German, another person can interpret at the advisory session if you and the authority agree.

What do you need to bring?

- ✓ Identity card/ passport/ substitute passport/ substitute identity card
- ✓ A vaccination card is advisable

How often do you have to go to the health advisory service?

The health advisory service has to be repeated every twelve months if you are over the age of 21.

If you are aged between 18 and 21, you must attend the health advisory service every six months.

Where does the advisory service take place?

Gesundheitsamt Bielefeld
Nikolaus-Dürkopp-Str. 5-9
33602 Bielefeld

Rooms E01 und E03 (ground floor)

Please arrange an appointment by phone:
Tel. 0521 51-3876

After the advisory session, a certificate confirming health advice will be issued in your first and second name.

If you do not want your real name to appear on the certificate, you can get an additional certificate made out in a pseudonym of your choice (known as an alias certificate)

Step 2 – Personal Registration

After the health advice session comes personal registration. Registration is free of charge, confidential and combined with some information and advice.

What happens at registration?

You will receive information concerning the following subjects:

- ✓ Basic information on the legal situation of prostitutes in Germany
- ✓ Basic information on further regulations for working in prostitution which apply for your area of operation (e.g. prohibited areas)
- ✓ Basic information on making provision for sickness and social aspects
- ✓ Information about regional and national health and social advisory services
- ✓ Information about availability of help in emergency situations
- ✓ Information concerning tax liability

The personal registration session will be conducted in a language that you understand. If you speak no or only a little German, the advisory office will bring in someone to translate. Any other person can only be present at the session if you and the advisory office agree.

When do you have to register?

When you have to register depends on how long you have been working as a prostitute.

Since **before**
01. July 2017

You must register
by **31 December 2017**
at the latest.

After
01 July 2017

You must register
immediately. You
are not allowed to work
without registration.

What do you need to bring?

- ✓ Identity card/passport/substitute passport or substitute identity card
- ✓ 2 photographs
- ✓ Certificate of attendance at a health advisory session

Note:

For the **first** registration, the health advice session must not be longer than three months before registration!

- ✓ Proof of permission to work or be self-employed, (residence permit for the purpose of employment)

Note:

You will need this certificate **only** if you are not a citizen of the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland

What information must you give?

- ✓ First and second name
- ✓ Date and place of birth
- ✓ Nationality
- ✓ Address or other delivery address
- ✓ All federal states and local authority districts where you want to work

Where does registration take place?

Ordnungsamt Bielefeld
Ravensberger Park 5
33607 Bielefeld

Please make an appointment with:
Frau Yildirim
Tel.: 0521 51-5073
Office hours: Mo. - Thu. 8 - 12 o'clock
EMail: probea@bielefeld.de

What happens if you do not register?

If you do not register as required by law, you could have to pay a fine of up to 1,000 Euros.

At the end of the registration session, a certificate of registration will be issued in your first and second name. You can also get an additional registration certificate issued under a pseudonym (called an alias certificate), this is without your real name and address.

You can then present the alias certificate to the health authority (Gesundheitsamt), where you can receive an alias certificate of participation in the health advisory session.

Important: Your personal data will not be made publicly available and it will not be passed on to your country of origin.

Extension of registration

The certificate of registration is valid for two years if you are over 21 years old. It is valid for only one year if you are under the age of 21.

Exception: There is an exception if you are over the age of 21 and were already working as a prostitute before 1 July 2017. In this case, your **first** certificate of registration is valid for three years.

If you wish to continue your activities after the registration certificate expires, you have to register again. The renewed registration procedure is in accordance with Step 2 of the registration process, this means you go to the district town clerk's office, taking the above-mentioned papers (in particular the certificate concerning regular health advisory sessions) and then you participate in the registration advisory session. After that, a new certificate of registration will be issued.

If you do not register again, the authority will presume that you are no longer working as a prostitute. Your personal data will then be deleted at the latest three months after your certificate of registration has expired. Anything else will only apply if there is proof that you are still working as a prostitute, are being forced into prostitution or exploited.

Summary:

Registration overview

Step 1 Health advice



First you must take part in a health advice session. This is not a physical examination but a conversation in which you will receive important information concerning health protection.

After the advisory session you will get a certificate that will be needed for registration. The certificate can also be issued under a pseudonym.



If you are aged between 18 and 21, the health advice session must be repeated every six months: once a year after the age of 21.

Please bring these:

- Identity card or passport
- Vaccination card if you have one

Gesundheitsamt Bielefeld
Nikolaus-Dürkopp-Str. 5-9
33602 Bielefeld

Rooms E01 and E03 on
the ground floor

Step 2 Personal registration



After the health advisory session you must register. Registration is combined with an advisory discussion providing information.



At the end of the talk you will receive a registration certificate which can also be issued additionally under an alias.

The registration certificate is valid for one year if you are aged between 18 and 21.;it is valid for two years when you are over the age of 21.

Please bring these:

- Identity card or passport
- 2 photographs
- Health advice certificate
- Proof of permission to work or be self-employed

Ordnungsamt Bielefeld
Niederwall 23
33602 Bielefeld

The office entrance is between the main entrance and the citizens' advice bureau (Bürgerberatung) and marked „Stadt Bielefeld- 320.22“.

Your new rights and duties

More rights – more autonomy

- According to the new law you have the right to sexual autonomy and can therefore decide for yourself which practices you want to offer and which you do not. You agree with your customer which services you offer, to what extent and for which price. Operators of business are not allowed to regulate how and with who you provide your sexual services (directive prohibition).

Until now people operating prostitution businesses could stipulate in a work contract when and where you work and which rules apply for the use of the work premises. This is called “limited directive right).

- You have the right to make use of advisory offers at any time, also during working hours. This applies not only for the mandatory advisory sessions but also for further offers of health and social advice.
- You can insist that your contracts (e.g. work contracts, rent contracts) or other documents concerning payment are in writing. In addition, no unreasonably high rent or other excessive demands can be asked from you.
- Any prostitution business requires official permission in future. To get this permission, the applicant must provide a business concept. You have the right to see this business concept, so you will know whether the place where you are working is officially approved and if the legal requirements are fulfilled.
- The business operators must ensure that your health and safety are guaranteed. Therefore you can request that rooms where you work are supplied with condoms, lubricants and hygiene articles. Sanitary facilities must also be available to you.

- Prostitution businesses must also ensure that the rooms where you work are equipped with an emergency call system.

Obligation to carry documents

While you are working, you are obliged to keep your registration certificate and your **last** health advice certificate or the alias certificates with you. You are only obliged to keep them with you while you are working.

These certificates belong to you. Nobody is allowed to take them away from you.

Obligation to use condoms

Condoms have to be used during any sexual intercourse, whether oral, anal or vaginal. This obligation to use condoms is primarily to protect your health and to support you in refusing unprotected sex.

In future, prostitution businesses must display a sign pointing out the obligation to use condoms. Furthermore, it is forbidden to advertise unprotected sex.

Compulsory permission to run a prostitution business

Anyone wanting to run a prostitution business needs official permission. Such businesses include brothels, nudist clubs, prostitution vehicles, commercial sex parties and escort agencies.

Even if you work in an apartment with one or more colleagues, this apartment is usually considered to be a prostitution business for which you need an official permit.

Help in emergency situations

The following advisory centres **do not** provide health advice.

All over Germany	
▪ Police	110
▪ Fire brigade and ambulance service	112
▪ Phone help line “Violence against Women“ If you are experiencing or have experienced violence, you can contact the advisory service throughout Germany around the clock (anonymously if you wish). Advice is given in 17 languages regarding violence and exploitation in prostitution as well as human trafficking.	Advice free of charge via the phone help line 08000 116016 Advice via immediate chat, email and sign language on the website www.hilfetelefon.de

Ostwestfalen-Lippe

▪ **Nadeschda – Women´s advice centre for victims of human trafficking**

Nadeschda offers you social advice and individual assistance if you are a victim of people trafficking.

This service is offered in numerous languages.

Bielefelder Straße 25
32051 Herford

Phone:
05221 840200

Email:
info@nadeschda-owl.de

▪ **THEODORA Advisory service for prostitutes and those wanting to leave prostitution**

The advisory centre Theodora offers you advice and support in your work in prostitution and in leaving prostitution, as well as dealing with municipal offices, landlords, banks etc. Advice is also provided concerning debt management, looking for accommodation and health matters.

This service is offered in numerous languages.

Bielefelder Straße 25
32051 Herford

Phone:
05221 3427111

Email:
info@theodora-owl.de

