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March 11, 2025

**NOTICE OF LABOR CODE VIOLATIONS PURSUANT TO
LABOR CODE SECTION 2699.3**

To: California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Attn. PAGA Administrator
1515 Clay Street, Suite 801
Oakland, California 94612
Via Online Submission Only

<u>MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC.</u> Registered Agent for Process Service c/o Berkowitz, Cohen & Rennett, A Professional Law Corporation 9401 Wilshire Blvd Ste 608, Beverly Hills, CA 90212 <u>Certified No.: 9589 0710 5270 1859 1830 95</u>	<u>MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC.</u> Attn.: Legal Department 13635 Freeway Drive Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 <u>Certified No.: 9589 0710 5270 1859 1830 30</u>
<u>MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC.</u> Attn.: Legal Department 423 E Florence Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90003 <u>Certified No.: 9589 0710 5270 1859 1830 71</u>	

From: VANESSA HOLGUIN, on behalf of herself and all other current and former aggrieved
California-based hourly non-exempt employees of MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL
CENTER, INC.

c/o Joseph Lavi, Esq.
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Our firm has been retained by aggrieved employee VANESSA HOLGUIN concerning a representative action pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code sections 2698, et seq. ("PAGA") against her employers, MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC.

We are filing this written notice with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") pursuant to the provisions of the California Labor Code Sections 2699, 2699.3, and 2698, et seq. The purpose of this letter is to inquire whether LWDA intends to investigate and seek civil penalties associated with my client's allegations of violations of the Labor Code by her Employer. In addition to submitting this letter and the \$75.00 filing fee via the online PAGA filing system, I am causing a copy of this letter to be mailed to the Department of Industrial Relations – Accounting Unit.

FACTUAL STATEMENT AND THEORIES OF LABOR CODE VIOLATIONS

Aggrieved employee VANESSA HOLGUIN ("Plaintiff" or "Employee") was employed by MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC. ("Defendants" or "Employers") as an hourly non-exempt employee from in or around March 2018 until on or about currently. Employers believes Defendant(s) employed more than one hundred (100) employees in total during the period covered by this notice, and Labor Code section 2999.3(c)(2) does not apply.

1. Failure to Pay the Minimum Wage Rate of Pay for All Hours Worked in Violation of Labor Code Sections 1194 and 1197

Employee alleges that during her employment, Employer failed to pay her and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees with compensation at the minimum wage rate of pay for all the hours that they worked in violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197. Labor Code section 1197 provides, "The minimum wage for employees fixed by the commission is the minimum wage to be paid to employees, and the payment of a less wage than the minimum so fixed is unlawful." Labor Code section 1194 states, "...any employee receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal overtime compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or overtime compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorney's fees, and costs of suit."

Employee alleges that during her employment, Employer failed to pay her and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages at the applicable minimum wage for all hours worked due to Employer's policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to:

- Requiring Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to clock out before entering overtime hours, even if still working otherwise subject to discipline up to and including termination.

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to undergo off the clock COVID-19 testing at home and submit results prior to coming to work without being paid for that time.

Employee and other Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees were not paid for this time resulting in Employer's failure to pay minimum wage for all the hours Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked.

Employer's aforementioned policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in time each day in which Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees were subject to the control of Employer without being compensated for that time.

Based on these violations, Employee intends to seek civil penalties pursuant to the Private Attorneys General Act ("PAGA"), California Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.*, and Labor Code section 1197.1, subdivisions (a)(1)-(2), on behalf of the Labor and Workforce Development Agency ("LWDA") against Employer if authorized to file a representative action on behalf of the State of California. As a derivative claim of Employer's failure to pay wages at a minimum wage rate for all hours worked, Employee will also seek civil penalties for Defendant's violations of Labor Code section 226(a) under Labor Code sections 226.3 and/or 2699(f)(2) because the failure to pay such minimum wages for all hours worked rendered Employee's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' pay calculations inaccurate and resulted in their wage statements being inaccurate with respect to gross wages earned, total hours worked, net wages earned and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate, in violation of Labor Code sections 226(a)(1, 2, 5 & 9).

2. *Failure to Pay Overtime Wages for Overtime Hours Work and/or Failure to Pay Overtime wages at the Proper Overtime Rate of Pay in Violation of Labor Code Section 510 and 1194*

Employee alleges that during her employment, Employer failed to pay her and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees for the overtime hours that they worked at their overtime rate of pay.

Labor Code section 510, subdivision (a), states in relevant part:

"Eight hours of labor constitutes a day's work. Any work in excess of eight hours in one workday and any work in excess of 40 hours in any one workweek and the first

eight hours worked on the seventh day of work in any one workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one and one-half times the regular rate of pay for an employee. Any work in excess of 12 hours in one day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight hours on any seventh day of a workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay of an employee.”

Further, Labor Code section 1198 provides,

The maximum hours of work and the standard conditions of labor fixed by the commission shall be the maximum hours of work and the standard conditions of labor for employees. The employment of any employee for longer hours than those fixed by the order or under conditions of labor prohibited by the order is unlawful.

Labor Code section 1194 provides, “...any employee receiving less than the legal minimum wage or the legal overtime compensation applicable to the employee is entitled to recover in a civil action the unpaid balance of the full amount of this minimum wage or overtime compensation, including interest thereon, reasonable attorney’s fees, and costs of suit.”

Employee alleges that during her employment, Employer failed to pay her and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees overtime wages for overtime hours worked due to Employer’s policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to:

- Requiring Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to clock out before entering overtime hours, even if still working otherwise subject to discipline up to and including termination.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to undergo off the clock COVID-19 testing at home and submit results prior to coming to work without being paid for that time.

Employee and other Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer’s conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees were not paid for this time resulting in Employers’ failure to pay minimum wage for all the hours Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked.

Employer's aforementioned policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in time each day in which Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees were subject to the control of Employer without being compensated for that time. To the extent that the foregoing unpaid time resulted from Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees being subject to the control of Employer when they worked more than eight (8) hours in a workday, more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, and/or seven days in a workweek, Employer failed to pay them at their overtime rate of pay for all the overtime hours they worked.

Employer's foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Employer failing to pay Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees at their overtime rate of pay for all overtime hours worked, in violation of Labor Code sections 510, 1194, 1198, and the Wage Order.

Furthermore, overtime is based upon an employee's regular rate of pay. "The regular rate at which an employee is employed shall be deemed to include all remuneration for employment paid to, or on behalf, of the employee." See Division of Labor Standards Enforcement – Enforcement Policies and Interpretations Manual, Section 49.1.2.

In this case, Employee alleges that when she and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees earned overtime wages, Employers failed to pay them overtime wages at the proper overtime rate of pay due to Employers' failure to include all remuneration when calculating the overtime rate of pay. Specifically, Employers maintained a policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration such as bonus pay and commissions pay for example, when calculating Employee's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' regular rate of pay for the purpose of paying overtime.

Based on these violations, Employee intends to seek civil penalties pursuant to PAGA, Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.*, under Labor Code sections 2699(f)(2) and 558, subdivisions (a)(1)-(2) on behalf of LWDA against Employer if authorized to file a representative action on behalf of the State of California. As a derivative claim of Employer's failure to pay overtime wages at the lawful overtime rate for all overtime hours worked, Employee will also seek civil penalties for Defendant's violations of Labor Code section 226(a) under Labor Code sections 226.3 and/or 2699(f)(2) because the failure to pay such overtime wages for all overtime hours worked rendered Employee's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' pay calculations inaccurate and resulted in their wage statements being inaccurate with respect to gross wages earned, total hours worked, net wages earned and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate, in violation of Labor Code sections 226(a)(1, 2, 5 & 9).

3. Failure to Authorize or Permit Meal Periods and/or Failure to Pay Meal Period Premiums in Violation of Labor Code Sections 512 and 226.7

Employee alleges that during her employment, Employer failed to authorize or permit all legally required and compliant meal periods and/or pay meal period premiums. California law requires an employer to provide an employee an uninterrupted meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes in which the employee is relieved of all duties and the employer relinquishes control over the employee's activities prior to the employee's sixth hour of work. Labor Code §§226.7, 512; Wage Order 4, §11; *Brinker Rest. Corp. v. Super Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004. An employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee with a second such meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the eleventh hour of work. *Id.* If the employer requires the employee to remain at the work site or facility during the meal period, the meal period must be paid. This is true even where the employee is relieved of all work duties during the meal period. *Bono Enterprises, Inc. v. Bradshaw* (1995) 32 Cal.App.4th 968. If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the law, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay for each workday that a legally required and compliant meal period was not provided. Labor Code §226.7; Wage Order 4, §11.

Employee alleges that Employer failed to authorize or permit her and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to take all legally required and compliant meal periods due to Employer's policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to, the following:

- Employers control how employees spend their breaks due to requiring Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to remain in their vehicle during their meal periods resulting in meal periods that were not duty-free.
- Requiring Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to remain on-duty during their off-the-clock meal breaks due to Employers' requirement that Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees keep cell phone on them and monitored at all times during their shift including during off the clock meal breaks so they can be contacted by Defendants.

Employee and other Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Additionally, Employee alleges that Employer maintained a policy, practice, and/or procedure whereby they failed to pay Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees a meal period premium wage of one (1) additional hour of pay at their regular rate of compensation for each workday that they did not receive all legally required and compliant meal periods, in violation of Labor Code section 226.7 and Wage Order 4 at § 11.

Finally, on occasions when Employers paid Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees a “premium” wage for late, missed, short, on-premise, on-duty, and/or interrupted meal periods, Employers failed to pay the one (1) additional hour of pay at Employee’s and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees’ regular rate of compensation. Specifically, Employers maintained a policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration such as bonus pay and commissions pay for example, when calculating Employee’s and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees’ regular rate of pay for the purpose of paying meal period premium wages.

Based on these violations, Employee intends to seek civil penalties pursuant to PAGA, Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.*, under Labor Code sections 558 and/or Labor Code section 2699(f)(2) on behalf of LWDA against Employer if authorized to file a representative action on behalf of the State of California. As a derivative claim of Employer’s failure to authorize or permit all legally required and compliant meal periods and/or failure to pay meal period premium wages, Employee will also seek civil penalties for Defendant’s violations of Labor Code section 226(a) under Labor Code sections 226.3 and/or 2699(f)(2) because the failure to pay meal period premiums and/or pay meal period premiums at the proper regular rate of pay rendered Employee’s and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees’ pay calculations inaccurate and resulted in their wage statements being inaccurate with respect to gross and net wages earned, in violation of Labor Code sections 226(a)(1 & 5).

4. *Failure to Authorize or Permit Rest Periods and/or Failure to Pay Rest Period Premiums in Violation of Labor Code Section 226.7*

Employee alleges that during her employment, Employer failed to authorize or permit all legally required and compliant rest periods and/or failed to pay rest period premiums. California law requires that “[e]very employer shall authorize and permit all employees to take rest periods, which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of each work period. The authorized rest period time shall be based on the total hours worked daily at the rate of ten (10) minutes net rest time per four (4) hours or major fraction thereof....” Wage Order 4, § 12. “Employees are entitled to 10 minutes’ rest for shifts from three and one-half to six hours in length, 20 minutes for shifts of more than six hours up to 10 hours, 30 minutes for shifts of more than 10 hours up to 14 hours, and so on.” *Brinker Restaurant Corp. v. Sup. Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1029; Labor Code §226.7. Additionally, the rest period requirement “obligates Employer to permit – and authorizes employees to take – off-duty rest periods.” *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.* (2016) 5 Cal.5th 257, 269. That is, during rest periods an employer must relieve employees of all duties and relinquish control over how employees spend their time. *Id.* If the employer fails to authorize or permit a required rest period, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee’s regular rate of pay for each workday the employer did not authorize or permit a legally required rest period. Labor Code section 226.7; Wage Order 4 at § 12.

Employee alleges that Employer failed to authorize or permit her and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to take all legally required and compliant rest periods due to Employer's policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to, the following:

- Employers control how employees spend their breaks due to requiring Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to remain in their vehicle during their rest periods resulting in rest periods that were not duty-free.
- Requiring Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to remain on-duty during their rest breaks due to Employers requirement that Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees keep cell phone on them and monitored at all times during their shift including during rest breaks so they can be contacted by Employers.

Employee and other Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Additionally, Employee alleges that Employer maintained a policy, practice, and/or procedure whereby they failed to pay Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees a rest period premium wage of one (1) additional hour of pay at their regular rate of compensation for each workday that they did not receive all legally required and compliant rest periods, in violation of Labor Code section 226.7 and Wage Order 4 at § 12.

Finally, on occasions when Employers paid Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees a "premium" wage for late, missed, short, on-premise, on-duty, and/or interrupted meal periods, Employers failed to pay the one (1) additional hour of pay at Employee's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' regular rate of compensation. Specifically, Employers maintained a policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration such as bonus pay and commissions pay for example, when calculating Employee's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' regular rate of pay for the purpose of paying meal period premium wages.

Based on these violations, Employee intends to seek civil penalties pursuant to PAGA, Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.*, under Labor Code section 2699(f)(2), on behalf of LWDA against Employer if authorized to file a representative action on behalf of the State of California. As a derivative claim of Employer's failure to authorize or permit all legally required and compliant rest periods and/or failure to pay rest period premium wages, Employee will also seek civil penalties for Defendant's violations of Labor Code section 226(a) under Labor Code sections 226.3 and/or 2699(f)(2) because the failure to pay rest period premiums and/or pay rest period premiums at the proper regular rate of pay rendered Employee's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' pay calculations inaccurate and

resulted in their wage statements being inaccurate with respect to gross and net wages earned, in violation of Labor Code sections 226(a)(1 & 5).

5. Failure to Indemnify Employees for Employment-Related Expenditures in Violation of Labor Code Section 2802

Employees allege that during their employment, Employers failed to indemnify them and other current and former California-based employees for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by them in the discharge of their duties. Labor Code section 2802(a) states, "An employer shall indemnify his or her employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of his or her duties, or of his or her obedience to the directions of the employer..."

Employees allege that during their employment, Employers failed to indemnify them and other current and former California-based employees for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by them in the discharge of their duties due to Employers' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to, the following:

- Requiring Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to use or purchase their own tools and/or resources in order to work for Employers, including but not limited to personal cellphone usage and mileage work-related purposes - without reimbursing Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees for such use.

Employee and other Aggrieved Employees personally suffered these violations. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Employers' aforementioned policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Employees and other current and former aggrieved California-based employees not receiving indemnification for employment-related expenditures, in violation of Labor Code 2802.

Based on this violation, Employees will seek both restitution for themselves and other current and former aggrieved California-based employees for Employers' violations of Labor Code section 2802 and will seek civil penalties under PAGA, Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.*, on behalf of the LWDA against Employers if authorized to file a representative action on behalf of the State of California.

6. Failure To Pay Wages for Accrued Paid Sick Days At The Regular Rate of Pay In Violation Of Labor Code Section 246

Defendants had a policy and/or procedure where Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees accrued paid sick time.

Labor Code section 246, subdivision (a), states in relevant part “[a]n employee who...works in California for the same employer for 30 or more days within a year from the commencement of employment is entitled to paid sick days.” Additionally, an employee accrues paid sick days at the rate of no-less-than one (1) hour per every thirty (30) hours worked, beginning at the commencement of employment. Labor Code section 246(b).

Here, Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees were employed by Employers for 30 or more days and were entitled to paid sick days. Also, Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees began accruing paid sick days since the beginning of each of their respective employment with Employers.

Labor Code section 246, subdivision (l), provides that an employer shall calculate the paid sick time for non-exempt employees in the same manner as the regular rate of pay for the workweek in which the employee elected to use paid sick time. “The regular rate at which an employee is employed shall be deemed to include all remuneration for employment paid to, or on behalf, of the employee.” See Division of Labor Standards Enforcement – Enforcement Policies and Interpretations Manual, Section 49.1.2.

In this case, Employee alleges that when she and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees elected to use paid sick time, Employers failed to pay them sick time wages at the proper sick time rate of pay due to Employers’ failure to include all remuneration when calculating the sick time rate of pay. Specifically, Employers maintained a policy, practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration including but not limited to bonus pay and commissions pay for example, when calculating Employees and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees’ regular rate of pay for the purpose of paying sick time. Employers also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

7. Failure to Pay Accrued and Vested Vacation Wages/PTO Wages in Violation of Labor Code Section 227.3

Employee alleges that during their employment, Employers failed to pay Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees accrued and vested vacation and/or personal time off (“PTO”) wages at the proper rate and/or during employment. Labor Code section 227.3 states in relevant part “...whenever a contract of employment or employer policy provides for paid vacations, and an employee is terminated without having taken off his vested vacation time, all vested vacation shall be paid to him as wages

at her final rate in accordance with such contract of employment or employer policy respecting eligibility or time served....”

Employers had a vacation policy in which Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees accrued paid vacation time. Nevertheless, Employers employed policies and procedures which ensured that Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees were not properly paid accrued and vested vacation time and/or PTO generally and/or upon during employment, in violation of Labor Code section 227.3 and/or California law. Employers failed to pay Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees the full amount of their earned vacation/PTO wages during, in violation of California law and Labor Code section 227.3. Employers also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Based on these violations, Employee will seek civil penalties under PAGA, Labor Code sections 2698, et seq., on behalf of LWDA against Employer if authorized to file a representative action on behalf of the State of California.226(f).

8. Failure to Timely Pay Earned Wages During Employment in Violation of Labor Code Section 204

Employee alleges that during her employment, Employer failed to timely pay Employee’s and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees’ earned wages. In California, wages must be paid at least twice during each calendar month on days designated in advance by the employer as regular paydays, subject to some exceptions. Labor Code §204(a). Wages earned between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month must be paid between the 16th and the 26th day of that month and wages earned between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month must be paid between the 1st and 10th day of the following month. *Id.* Other payroll periods such as those that are weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly, must be paid within seven (7) calendar days following the close of the payroll period in which wages were earned. Labor Code §204(d).

As a derivative of Employee’s claims above, Employee alleges that Employer failed to timely pay her and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees’ earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and/or rest period premium wages), in violation of Labor Code section 204. Employer’s aforementioned policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Employer failing to pay Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees their earned wages within the applicable time frames outlined in Labor Code 204. Employers also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Based on these violations, Employee intends to seek civil penalties pursuant to PAGA, Labor Code sections 2698, et seq., on behalf of LWDA against Employer if authorized to file a representative action on behalf of the State of California.

9. Secret Payment of Wages Lower Than Designated by Statute, in Violation of Labor Code Section 223

Labor Code section 223 provides that, where any statute or contract requires an employer to maintain the designated wage scale, it shall be unlawful to secretly pay a lower wage while purporting to pay the wage designated by statute or contract. By engaging in the unlawful conduct alleged herein, including by failing to pay wages no less than the applicable legal minimum and overtime wages, and also meal and rest break premiums, as established by Labor Code sections 226.7, 510, 1194, 1197 and sections 11 and 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, as incorporated by Labor Code section 1198, the Employer secretly paid a lower wage than designated by statute while purporting to pay the wages designated by statute, in violation of Labor Code section 223. The Employee with therefore pursue the civil penalties established by Labor Code section 225.5 for all such violations of Labor Code section 223, on behalf of the LWDA and against Employer if authorized to file a representative action on behalf of the State of California. Employers also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

10. Failure to Provide Complete and Accurate Wage Statements in Violation of Labor Code 226

Labor Code section 226(a) states that “[a]n employer, semimonthly or at the time of each payment of wages, shall furnish to his or her employee...an accurate itemized statement in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee...(3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided that all deductions made on written orders of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and only the last four digits of his or her social security number or an employee identification number other than a social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer...and (9) all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate by the employee....”

Employee alleges that as a derivative of Employee’s claims above, Employer failed to provide accurate wage and hour statements to Employee and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees who were subject to Employer’s control for uncompensated time and who did not receive all their earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and/or rest period premium wages), as such failures rendered Employee’s and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees’ pay calculations inaccurate and resulted in their wage statements being inaccurate with respect to gross wages earned, total hours worked, net wages earned and all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate, in violation of Labor Code sections 226(a)(1, 2, 5 & 9). Employers believes these failures were willful and intentional. Employers also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive. Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

Labor & Workforce Development Agency

Re: VANESSA HOLGUIN v. MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC., et al.

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Based on these violations, Employee will seek civil penalties pursuant to PAGA, Labor Code sections 2698, *et seq.*, under Labor Code section 226.3 and/or Labor Code section 2699(f)(2) on behalf of LWDA, against Employer if authorized to file a representative action on behalf of the State of California.

CONCLUSION

Our client intends to file a representative action pursuant to PAGA concerning her wage claims as warranted by Employer's violations of Labor Code sections 204, 223, 226, 226.7, 227.3, 246, 510, 512, 1194, 1197, 2802, and sections 3, 4, 11 and 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders. This letter is being sent to you as an inquiry into whether LWDA wishes to investigate my client's claims for civil penalties associated with Employer's violations of the Labor Code, as alleged herein. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the above-listed information.

Very truly yours,
LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP



Chloe J. Sykes, Esq.

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☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery \$ _____	
Postage \$ _____	

MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC.
 Attn.: Legal Department
 423 E Florence Avenue
 Los Angeles, CA 90003

for Instructions

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■ Complete items 1, 2, and 3. ■ Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you. ■ Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits. 1. Article Addressed to: MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC. Attn.: Legal Department 423 E Florence Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90003 9590 9402 8998 4122 1769 26 2. Article Number (Transfer from service label) 9589 0710 5270 1859 1830 71	A. Signature X ☐ Agent ☐ Addressee B. Received by (Printed Name) _____ C. Date of Delivery _____ D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No 3. Service Type <table style="width: 100%; font-size: 0.8em;"> <tr> <td>☐ Adult Signature</td> <td>☐ Priority Mail Express®</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery</td> <td>☐ Registered Mail™</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☒ Certified Mail®</td> <td>☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery</td> <td>☒ Signature Confirmation™</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Collect on Delivery</td> <td>☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery</td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Insured Mail</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	☐ Adult Signature	☐ Priority Mail Express®	☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	☐ Registered Mail™	☒ Certified Mail®	☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery	☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	☒ Signature Confirmation™	☐ Collect on Delivery	☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery	☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery		☐ Insured Mail		☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery (over \$500)	
☐ Adult Signature	☐ Priority Mail Express®																
☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	☐ Registered Mail™																
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☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	☒ Signature Confirmation™																
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LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP
8889 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 200
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

is box*

JL/VG/JL/CS/VE: PABA LETTER
HOLBURN V. MOTHERS NUTRITIONAL (PABA)

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- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
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**MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER,
INC.**

Attn.: Legal Department
423 E Florence Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90003

9590 9402 8998 4122 1769 26

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

9589 0710 5270 1859 1830 71

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

☐ Agent

☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type

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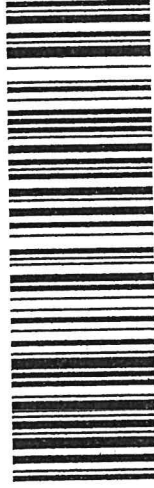
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☐ Return Receipt (hardcopy)	\$ _____
☐ Return Receipt (electronic)	\$ _____
☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	\$ _____
☐ Adult Signature Required	\$ _____
☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	\$ _____

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MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC.
 Registered Agent for Process Service
 c/o Berkowitz, Cohen & Rennett,
 A Professional Law Corporation
 9401 Wilshire Blvd Ste 608,
 Beverly Hills, CA 90212

See reverse for Instructions

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY												
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HOLLOVIN V. MOTHERS NUTRITIONAL
(PABA)

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

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Registered Agent for Process Service
c/o Berkowitz, Cohen & Rennett,
A Professional Law Corporation
9401 Wilshire Blvd Ste 608,
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

9590 9402 8998 4122 1769 33

2. Article Number (Transfer from service label)

9589 0710 5270 1859 1830 95

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

☐ Agent

☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

3. Service Type

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- ☒ Certified Mail®
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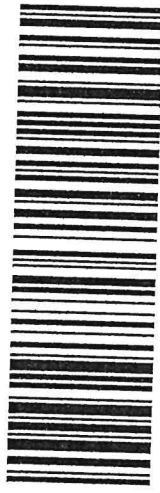
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☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery	\$ _____
☐ Adult Signature Required	\$ _____
☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery	\$ _____

Postage \$ _____

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Here

MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL CENTER, INC.
 Attn.: Legal Department
 13635 Freeway Drive
 Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

See Reverse for Instructions

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SLV61JK/CS/VE: PABA LETTER
HOLBURN V. MOTHER'S NUTRITIONAL
(PABA)

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A. Signature

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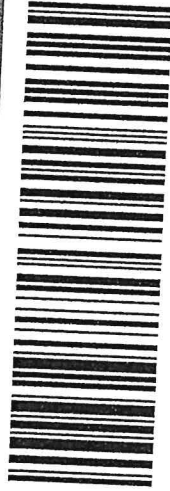
Registered Mail
Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
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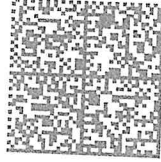
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