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on behalf of herself and current and former aggrieved employees

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

TARA ELIZABETH SPEARS, on behalf of
herself and current and former aggrieved
employees

Plaintiff,

vs.

SACRAMENTO CHILDRENS HOME; and
DOES 1 to 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: **25CV021361**

PAGA ACTION

**PLAINTIFF TARA ELIZABETH
SPEARS'S COMPLAINT FOR:**

- CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT
TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS
GENERAL ACT OF 2004
("PAGA"), LABOR CODE
SECTIONS 2698, ET SEQ.**

COMES NOW Plaintiff TARA ELIZABETH SPEARS ("Plaintiff"), who alleges and
complains against Defendants SACRAMENTO CHILDRENS HOME; and DOES 1 to 100,
inclusive (collectively "Defendants") as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is a Private Attorneys General Act of 2004, Labor Code §§ 2698, *et seq.*
("PAGA") representative action brought by Plaintiff on behalf of the State of California, herself
and other current and former aggrieved employees of Defendants who worked as hourly non-exempt
employees in California during the relevant time period seeking civil penalties associated with
Defendants' violation of the Labor Code based on Defendants' failure to pay wages for all hours

1 worked at minimum wage and all overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay; failure to pay
2 overtime wages at the proper overtime rate of pay; failure to authorize or permit all legally required
3 and/or compliant meal periods or pay meal period premium wages; failure to authorize or permit
4 all legally required and/or compliant rest periods or pay rest period premium wages; indemnification
5 for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by employees in direct consequence of discharging
6 their duties; statutory penalties for failure to timely pay earned wages during employment; statutory
7 penalties for secret payment of wages lower than designated by statute; statutory penalties for failure
8 to establish, implement, and maintain a workplace violence and injury prevention program; statutory
9 penalties for failure to provide accurate wage statements; statutory waiting time penalties in the
10 form of continuation wages for failure to timely pay employees all wages due upon separation of
11 employment. . Plaintiff experienced these violations personally, as well as is informed and believes
12 other aggrieved employees did as well. Plaintiff seeks on a representative basis, following notice
13 to the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, civil penalties, reasonable attorneys' fees
14 pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g)(1) and costs brought on behalf of Plaintiff, the State of
15 California, and others aggrieved.

16 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

17 2. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims of Plaintiff and all other current and
18 former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees because Plaintiff's lawsuit seeks
19 civil penalties on behalf of herself, all other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
20 non-exempt employees, and the State of California in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars
21 (\$25,000); Defendants employed Plaintiff and all other current and former aggrieved California-
22 based hourly non-exempt employees; and the injuries to Plaintiff and all other current and former
23 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees occurred in locations throughout
24 California, including but not limited to Sacramento County, at 1565 River Park Dr, Sacramento,
25 CA 95815.

26 **III. PARTIES**

27 1. Plaintiff brings this action as a representative of the Labor and Workforce
28 Development Agency on behalf of himself and other current and former employees subject to

1 violations of the Labor Code. The named Plaintiff and the persons on whose behalf this action is
2 filed include current, former and/or future employees of Defendants who work, worked, or will work
3 for Defendants as direct employees as well as temporary employees employed through temp
4 agencies as hourly non-exempt employees in California. At all times mentioned herein, the currently
5 named Plaintiff is and was domiciled and a resident and citizen of California and was employed by
6 Defendants in an hourly position at Defendants' location in Sacramento County starting on or
7 around September 15, 2017 and ending on or about November 27, 2024.

8 2. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant
9 SACRAMENTO CHILDRENS HOME is authorized to do business within the State of California
10 and is doing business in the State of California and/or that Defendants DOES 1-50 are, and at all
11 times relevant hereto were persons acting on behalf of Defendant SACRAMENTO CHILDRENS
12 HOME in the establishment of, or ratification of, the aforementioned illegal wage and hour practices
13 or policies. Defendant SACRAMENTO CHILDRENS HOME operates in Sacramento County and
14 employed Plaintiff and aggrieved employees in Sacramento County, including but not limited to, at
15 1565 River Park Dr, Sacramento, CA 95815.

16 3. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants DOES 1
17 through 50 are corporations, or are other business entities or organizations of a nature unknown to
18 Plaintiff that employed Plaintiff and aggrieved California non-exempt employees, permitted
19 Plaintiff and aggrieved employees to work, and exercised control over the wages, hours and working
20 conditions of employment of Plaintiff and aggrieved employees.

21 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants DOES 51
22 through 100 are individuals unknown to Plaintiff. Each of the individual defendants is sued
23 individually and in his or her capacity as an agent, shareholder, owner, representative, manager,
24 supervisor, independent contractor and/or employee of each defendant who violated or caused to be
25 violated the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Labor Code and/or any provision of the
26 Industrial Welfare Commission's wage orders regulating hours and days of work.

27 5. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names of Defendants DOES 1 through 100. Plaintiff
28 sues said defendants by said fictitious names, and will amend this complaint when the true names

1 and capacities are ascertained or when such facts pertaining to liability are ascertained, or as
2 permitted by law or by the Court. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the fictitiously
3 named defendants is in some manner responsible for the events and allegations set forth in this
4 complaint.

5 6. Plaintiff makes the allegations in this complaint without any admission that, as to
6 any particular allegation, Plaintiff bears the burden of pleading, proving, or persuading and Plaintiff
7 reserves all of Plaintiff's right to plead in the alternative.

8 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

9 **CIVIL PENALTIES PURSUANT TO THE PRIVATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL ACT OF**
10 **2004, LABOR CODE SECTIONS 2698, ET SEQ.**

11 **(Against all Defendants by Plaintiff on behalf of Themselves, the State of California, and**
12 **Other Current and Former Aggrieved Employees)**

13 7. Plaintiff incorporates all paragraphs above as though fully set forth herein.

14 8. During Plaintiff's employment and continuing through the present, Plaintiff alleges
15 Defendants violated Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 223, 226, 226.7, 510, 512, 1194, 1197,
16 2802, 6401.7, 6401.9, and the applicable Wage Orders.

17 9. Specifically, Defendants have committed the following violations of California
18 Labor Code:

19 10. **Failure to pay wages for all hours worked at the legal minimum wage:**
20 Defendants employed many of their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt
21 employees. In California, an employer is required to pay hourly employees for all "hours worked,"
22 which includes all time that an employee is under control of the employer and all time the employee
23 is suffered and permitted to work. This includes the time an employee spends, either directly or
24 indirectly, performing services which inure to the benefit of the employer.

25 11. Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 require an employer to compensate employees
26 for all "hours worked" at least at a minimum wage rate of pay as established by the IWC and the
27 Wage Orders.

28 12. In this case, Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly

1 non-exempt employees worked more minutes per shift than Defendants credited them with having
2 worked. Specifically, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
3 California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages at the applicable minimum wage for all
4 hours worked due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited
5 to:

6 (a) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
7 non-exempt employees to turn on, boot up, and log in using username and password and 2-factor
8 authentication via their cellphone, prior to being permitted to clock-in for their start shifts without
9 being paid for that time.

10 (b) Failing to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
11 hourly non-exempt employees overtime wages on days they worked more than 8 hours due
12 Defendants using "Flex Time" system, instead Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
13 California-based hourly non-exempt employees would be credited on days not worked and
14 Defendants would clock in and out hours as Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
15 California-based hourly non-exempt employees as if they worked on those days.

16 13. Therefore, Defendants suffered, permitted, and required Plaintiff and other current
17 and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees to be subject to Defendants'
18 control without paying wages for that time. This resulted in Plaintiff and other current and former
19 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees working time for which they were not
20 compensated any wages, in violation of Labor Code sections 1194 and 1197 and the applicable
21 Wage Order.

22 14. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
23 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
24 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
25 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

26 15. **Failure to pay wages for overtime hours worked at the overtime rate of pay**
27 **and/or failure to pay overtime wages at the proper rate of pay:** Defendants employed many of
28 their employees, including Plaintiff, as hourly non-exempt employees. In California, an employer

1 is required to pay hourly employees for all “hours worked,” which includes all time that an employee
2 is under control of the employer and all time the employee is suffered and permitted to work. This
3 includes the time an employee spends, either directly or indirectly, performing services that inure to
4 the benefit of the employer.’

5 16. Labor Code sections 510 and 1194 require an employer to compensate employees a
6 higher rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in a workday, in excess of forty (40)
7 hours in a workweek, and on any seventh consecutive day of work in a workweek:

8 Any work in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday, any work in excess of forty (40) hours
9 in any one (1) workweek, and the first eight (8) hours worked on the seventh day of work in
10 any one (1) workweek, shall be compensated at the rate of no less than one-and-one-half
11 (1.5) times the regular rate of pay for an employee. Any work in excess of twelve (12) hours
12 in one (1) day shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay
13 for an employee. In addition, any work in excess of eight (8) hours on any seventh day of a
14 workweek shall be compensated at the rate of no less than twice the regular rate of pay of an
15 employee.

16 Labor Code section 510.

17 17. In this case, Defendants failed to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
18 California-based hourly non-exempt employees overtime wages for all overtime hours worked due
19 to Defendants’ policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not limited to:

20 (a) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
21 non-exempt employees to turn on, boot up, and log in using username and password and 2-factor
22 authentication via their cellphone, prior to being permitted to clock-in for their start shifts without
23 being paid for that time.

24 (b) Failing to pay Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
25 hourly non-exempt employees overtime wages on days they worked more than 8 hours due
26 Defendants using “Flex Time” system, instead Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
27 California-based hourly non-exempt employees would be credited on days not worked and
28 Defendants would clock in and out hours as Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
California-based hourly non-exempt employees as if they worked on those days.

18. 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.

1 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
2 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

3 19. The foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in time during each
4 workday that Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt
5 employees were under the control of Defendants but were not compensated. To the extent that the
6 foregoing uncompensated time occurred when Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved
7 California-based hourly non-exempt employees worked more than eight (8) hours in a workday,
8 more than forty (40) hours in a workweek, and/or seven (7) days in a workweek, Defendants failed
9 to pay them at their overtime rate of pay for overtime hours worked, in violation of Labor Code
10 sections 510, 1194 and 1198, and the applicable Wage Order.

11 20. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
12 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant meal periods and/or failure to**
13 **pay period premium wages:** Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
14 hourly non-exempt employees regularly worked shifts of more than five (5) hours in length and
15 shifts of more than ten (10) hours in length.

16 21. California law requires an employer to authorize or permit an employee an
17 uninterrupted meal period of no less than thirty (30) minutes in which the employee is relieved of
18 all duties and the employer relinquishes control over the employee's activities prior to the
19 employee's sixth hour of work. Labor Code sections 226.7, 512, and 1198; Wage Order 4 at §11;
20 *Brinker Rest. Corp. v. Super Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004. An employer may not employ
21 an employee for a work period of more than ten (10) hours per day without providing the employee
22 with a second such meal period of not less than thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the eleventh
23 hour of work. *Id.* If the employee is not relieved of all duty during a meal period, the meal period
24 shall be considered an "on duty" meal period and counted as time worked. A paid "on duty" meal
25 period is only permitted when: (1) the nature of the work prevents an employee from being relieved
26 of all duty; and (2) the parties have a written agreement agreeing to on-duty meal periods.

27 22. If an employer fails to provide an employee a meal period in accordance with the
28 law, the employer must pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay

1 for each workday that a legally required and compliant meal period was not provided. Labor Code
2 sections 226.7 and 1198; Wage Order 4 at §11.

3 23. In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit legally required and compliant
4 meal periods to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
5 exempt employees due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures, including but not
6 limited to:

7 (a) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
8 non-exempt employees to remain on-duty during their off-the-clock meal breaks because Plaintiff
9 and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees were
10 required to keep their personal cellphone on them at all times during their shift to monitor and
11 respond to calls from Defendant, including during their off-the-clock meal breaks.

12 (b) Failing to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
13 hourly non-exempt employees timely, uninterrupted, duty-free meal breaks of at least 30 minutes
14 for every five hours worked.

15 24. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
16 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
17 hourly non-exempt employees one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each workday that
18 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees did
19 not receive legally required and compliant meal periods, in violation of Labor Code section 226.7.

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

28 26. Defendants' foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff and

1 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not receiving
2 wages to compensate them for workdays during which Defendants did not provide them with meal
3 periods in compliance with California law.

4 27. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
5 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
6 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
7 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

8 28. **Failure to pay wages to hourly non-exempt employees for workdays that**
9 **Defendants failed to provide legally required and compliant rest periods and/or failure to pay**
10 **rest period premium:** Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
11 non-exempt employees regularly worked shifts of more than three-and-a-half (3.5) hours.

12 29. California law requires every employer to authorize and permit an employee a rest
13 period of ten (10) net minutes for every four (4) hours worked or major fraction thereof. Labor Code
14 section 226.7; Wage Order 4 at §12. Under California law, "[e]mployees are entitled to 10 minutes'
15 rest for shifts from three and one-half to six hours in length, 20 minutes for shifts of more than six
16 hours up to 10 hours, 30 minutes for shifts of more than 10 hours up to 14 hours, and so on." *Brinker*
17 *Restaurant Corp. v. Sup. Ct. (Hohnbaum)* (2012) 53 Cal.4th 1004, 1029; Labor Code section 226.7;
18 Wage Order 4 at §12. Rest periods, insofar as practicable, shall be in the middle of each work period.
19 Wage Order 4 at §12. Additionally, the rest period requirement "“obligates employers to permit –
20 and authorizes employees to take – off-duty rest periods.” *Augustus v. ABM Security Services, Inc.*
21 (2016) 2 Cal.5th 257, 269. That is, during rest periods employers must relieve employees of all
22 duties and relinquish control over how employees spend their time. *Id.*

23 30. If the employer fails to authorize or permit a required rest period, the employer must
24 pay the employee one (1) hour of pay at the employee's regular rate of pay for each workday the
25 employer did not authorize or permit a legally required rest period. Labor Code section 226.7; Wage
26 Order 4 at § 12.

27 31. In this case, Defendants failed to authorize or permit all legally required and
28 compliant rest periods to Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly

1 non-exempt employees due to Defendants' policies, practices, and/or procedures including, but not
2 limited to:

3 (a) Requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
4 non-exempt employees to remain on-duty during their rest breaks because Plaintiff and other current
5 and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees were required to keep their
6 cellphone on them at all times during their shift to monitor and respond to calls from Defendant,
7 including during rest breaks.

8 (b) Failing to provide Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
9 hourly non-exempt employees with net ten (10) minute rest breaks for every four (4) hours worked
10 or major fraction thereof.

11 32. Additionally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants maintained a policy, practice, and/or
12 procedure of failing to compensate Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
13 hourly non-exempt employees with one (1) hour of pay at their regular rate of pay for each workday
14 they did not receive legally required and compliant rest periods, in violation of Labor Code section
15 226.7.

16 33. Finally, on occasions when Defendants did pay Plaintiff and other current and former
17 aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees a "premium" wage for late, missed, short,
18 on-premise, on-duty, and/or interrupted rest periods, Defendants failed to pay the one (1) additional
19 hour of pay at Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
20 exempt employees' regular rate of compensation. Specifically, Defendants maintained a policy,
21 practice, and/or procedure of failing to include all remuneration such premium pay for example,
22 when calculating Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-
23 exempt employees' regular rate of pay for the purpose of paying rest period premiums.

24 34. Defendants' foregoing policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in Plaintiff and
25 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees not receiving
26 wages to compensate them for workdays in which Defendants did not provide them with rest periods
27 in compliance with California law.

28 35. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that

1 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
2 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
3 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

4 **36. Failure to Indemnify for Losses and Expenditures Incurred as Part of**
5 **Employment:** California law requires that every employer must indemnify its employees for all
6 necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in discharge of his or her duties or at the
7 obedience of the directions of the employer. Moreover, an employer is prohibited from passing the
8 ordinary business expenses and losses of the employer onto the employee. (Lab. Code, § 2802.)

9 37. Defendants have violated Labor Code Section 2802 by failing to indemnify Plaintiff
10 and other current and former aggrieved California-based non-exempt hourly employees' necessary
11 expenditures they incurred in the discharge of their duties. Specifically, Defendants employed
12 policies, practices, and/or procedures included, but not limited to:

13 (a) requiring Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly
14 non-exempt employees to use or purchase their own tools and/or resources in order to work for
15 Defendants, including but not limited to cellphone usage and equipment purchases for work-related
16 purposes - without reimbursing Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based
17 hourly non-exempt employees for such use.

18 38. Moreover, Defendants employed policies and procedures which ensured Plaintiff and
19 aggrieved employees would not receive indemnification for their employment related expenses.
20 This practice resulted in Plaintiff and aggrieved employees not receiving such indemnification in
21 compliance with California law.

22 39. Therefore, Defendants are liable to Plaintiff and aggrieved employees for their
23 employment related expenses, including but not limited to costs related to use of their personal cell
24 phones and costs associated with their uniforms pursuant to Labor Code section 2802.

25 40. Employee is further informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that
26 Employer's conduct above that gave rise to such violations was malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
27 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
28 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

1 41. **Failure to timely pay earned wages during employment:** In California, wages
2 must be paid at least twice during each calendar month on days designated in advance by the
3 employer as regular paydays, subject to some exceptions. Labor Code section 204(a). Wages earned
4 between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month must be paid between the 16th and
5 the 26th day of that month and wages earned between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any
6 calendar month must be paid between the 1st and 10th day of the following month. *Id.* Other payroll
7 periods such as those that are weekly, biweekly, or semimonthly, must be paid within seven (7)
8 calendar days following the close of the payroll period in which wages were earned. Labor Code
9 section 204(d).

10 42. As a derivative of Plaintiff's claims above, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants failed to
11 timely pay Plaintiff's and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt
12 employees' earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages
13 and/or rest period premium wages), in violation of Labor Code section 204. Defendants'
14 aforementioned policies, practices, and/or procedures resulted in their failure to pay Plaintiff's and
15 other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees' their earned
16 wages within the applicable time frames outlined in Labor Code section 204.

17 43. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
18 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
19 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

20 44. **Secret payment of lower wages than designated by statute:** Labor Code section
21 223 provides that, where any statute or contract requires an employer to maintain the designated
22 wage scale, it shall be unlawful to secretly pay a lower wage while purporting to pay the wage
23 designated by statute or contract. By engaging in the unlawful conduct alleged herein, including by
24 failing to: pay overtime wages at the applicable legal overtime rate, meal break premiums and lawful
25 sick pay at the employees' regular rate of pay, as established by Labor Code sections 226.7, 246,
26 510, 1194 and sections 11 and 12 of the applicable IWC Wage Orders, as incorporated by Labor
27 Code section 1198, the Defendant secretly paid a lower wage than designated by statute while
28 purporting to pay the wages designated by statute, in violation of Labor Code section 223.

1 45. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
2 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
3 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

4 46. **Failure to Implement a Workplace Violence Prevention Policy:** Labor Code
5 Sections 6401.7 and 6401.9 require Defendants to develop and implement a workplace violence
6 prevention plan in accordance with newly codified Labor code section 6401.9, which sets out the
7 requirements for the plan. Starting July 1, 2024, Defendants were required to establish, implement,
8 and maintain a Workplace Violence Prevention Plan that includes: 1) implementation of a
9 Workplace Violence Prevention Plan; 2) maintaining a violence incidence log; 3) providing a
10 training program to discuss a prevent workplace violence; and 4) maintain records relating to
11 workplace violence which includes, records of workplace violence hazard identification,
12 evaluations, and correction must be created and maintained for a minimum of five years; training
13 records must be created and maintained; incident logs; and records of workplace violence incident
14 investigations must be maintained.

15 47. Defendants willfully failed to implement a Workplace violence Prevention Policy
16 starting on or about July 1, 2024. Plaintiff and other Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover
17 penalties up to \$25,000 for each serious violation, and up to \$124,709 (to be adjusted based on the
18 Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers) for “willful violations.” See Labor Code Sections
19 6401.7, 6401.9 6428, and 6429.

20 48. **Failure to provide complete and accurate wage statements:** Labor Code section
21 226, subdivision (a). Labor Code section 226(a) provides, *inter alia*, that, upon paying an employee
22 his or her wages, the employer must “furnish each of his or her employees ... an itemized statement
23 in writing showing (1) gross wages earned, (2) total hours worked by the employee, except for any
24 employee whose compensation is solely based on a salary and who is exempt from payment of
25 overtime under subdivision (a) of Section 515 or any applicable order of the Industrial Welfare
26 Commission, (3) the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee
27 is paid on a piece-rate basis, (4) all deductions, provided, that all deductions made on written orders
28 of the employee may be aggregated and shown as one item, (5) net wages earned, (6) the inclusive

1 dates of the pay period for which the employee is paid, (7) the name of the employee and his or her
2 social security number, (8) the name and address of the legal entity that is the employer, and (9) all
3 applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours
4 worked at each hourly rate by the employee.”

5 49. As a derivative of Plaintiff’s allegations above, Defendants’ failure to pay Plaintiff
6 and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all wages
7 earned (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages, and/or rest period
8 premium wages) rendered Plaintiff’s and other current and former aggrieved California-based
9 hourly non-exempt employees’ wage statements inaccurate, in violation of Labor Code section
10 226(a)(1, 2, 5 & 9).

11 50. Plaintiff believes these failures were willful and intentional.

12 51. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
13 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
14 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

15 52. **Failure to pay employees all wages due at time of termination/resignation:** An
16 employer is required to pay all unpaid wages timely after an employee’s employment ends. The
17 wages are due immediately upon termination (Labor Code section 201) or within seventy-two (72)
18 hours of resignation (Labor Code section 202).

19 53. As a derivative of Plaintiff’s allegations above, because Defendants failed to pay
20 Plaintiff and other current and former aggrieved California-based hourly non-exempt employees all
21 their earned wages (including minimum wages, overtime wages, meal period premium wages,
22 and/or rest period premium wages), Defendants failed to pay those employees timely after each
23 employee’s termination and/or resignation, in violation of Labor Code sections 201, 202, and 203.

24 54. Plaintiff believes these failures were willful and intentional.

25 55. Plaintiff also believes these failures were malicious, fraudulent, or oppressive.
26 Employer would further be liable for civil penalties pursuant to Labor Code section
27 2699(f)(2)(B)(ii).

28 56. Labor Code sections 2699, subdivisions (a) and (g) authorize an aggrieved employee,

1 on behalf of himself or herself and other current or former employees, to bring a civil action to
2 recover civil penalties against all Defendants pursuant to the procedures specified in Labor Code
3 section 2699.3.

4 57. Plaintiff has complied with the procedures for bringing suit specified in Labor Code
5 section 2699.3. On June 20, 2025, Plaintiff filed a PAGA Claim Notice with the LWDA and
6 provided notice to Defendants by certified mail which provided notice of the specific provisions of
7 the Labor Code alleged to have been violated, including the facts and theories to support the
8 violations alleged.

9 58. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699.3, the LWDA must give written notice by
10 certified mail to the parties that it intends to investigate the alleged violations of the Labor Code
11 within 60 days of the date of the complainant's written notice. The LWDA failed to provide the
12 parties notice within 60 days of the date of Plaintiff's PAGA Claim Notice that the LWDA intends
13 to investigate Plaintiff's claims.

14 59. Pursuant to Labor Code sections 2699(a) and (f), Plaintiff is entitled to recover civil
15 penalties for Defendants' violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 204, 223, 226(a), 226.7,
16 510, 512, 1194, 6401.7 and 6401.9. During Plaintiff's employment and continuing through the
17 present, preceding Plaintiff sending the initial PAGA Claim Notice to the LWDA to the present, in
18 the following amounts:

19 a. For violations of Labor Code sections 201, 202, 203, 226(a), 226.7, and 2802;
20 one hundred dollars (\$100) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for the initial violation and
21 two hundred dollars (\$200) for each aggrieved employee per pay period for each subsequent
22 violation [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 2699(f)(2)].

23 b. For violations of Labor Code section 226(a), alternatively, two hundred fifty
24 dollars (\$250) for each employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each
25 subsequent violation, one thousand dollars (\$1000) for each underpaid employee for each pay period
26 [penalty amounts established by Labor Code section 226.3].

27 c. For violations of Labor Code section 510 and 512, fifty dollars (\$50) for each
28 employee for each pay period for the initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, one

1 hundred dollars (\$100) for each underpaid employee for each pay period [penalty amounts
2 established by Labor Code section 558].

3 d. For violations of Labor Code section 204, one hundred dollars (\$100) for
4 each failure to pay each employee in any initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, or any
5 willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee,
6 plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld [penalty amounts established by Labor Code
7 section 210].

8 e. For violations of Labor Code section 223, one hundred dollars (\$100) for
9 each failure to pay each employee in any initial violation, and for each subsequent violation, or any
10 willful or intentional violation, two hundred dollars (\$200) for each failure to pay each employee,
11 plus 25 percent of the amount unlawfully withheld [penalty amounts established by Labor Code
12 section 225.5].

13 f. For violations of Labor Code sections 6401.7 and 6401.9, Plaintiff and other
14 Aggrieved Employees are entitled to recover penalties up to \$25,000 for each serious violation, and
15 up to \$124,709 (to be adjusted based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers) for
16 “willful violations.”

17 60. Pursuant to Labor Code section 2699(g), Plaintiff is entitled to an award of
18 reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs in connection with her claims for civil penalties.

19 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

20 **WHEREFORE, PLAINTIFF, ON BEHALF OF HERSELF AND ON OTHER AGGRIEVED**
21 **EMPLOYEES, PRAYS AS FOLLOWS:**

22 **ON THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:**

23 1. That Defendants be found to have violated the provisions of the Labor Code and the
24 IWC Wages Orders as to the Plaintiff and aggrieved employees;

25 2. For any and all legally applicable penalties during the relevant statute of limitations
26 subject to any permissible tolling, including but not limited to those recoverable under the California
27 Labor Code, including but not limited to sections 210, 225.5, 226.3, 558, 2699(f);

28 3. For attorneys’ fees and costs of suit, including but not limited to those recoverable

1 under California Labor Code section 2699(g); and

2 4. For such and other further relief, in law and/or equity, as the Court deems just or
3 appropriate.

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5 Dated: September 9, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
LAVI & EBRAHIMIAN, LLP

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By:



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Attorneys for Plaintiff

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TARA ELIZABETH SPEARS,

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on behalf of herself and current and former aggrieved
employees

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