



MATERN LAW GROUP, PC

2101 E. El Segundo Blvd., Suite 403
El Segundo, California 90245
www.maternlawgroup.com
Tel: (310) 531-1900 | Fax: (310) 531-1901

January 14, 2026

Via Online Submission

California Labor & Workforce
Development Agency
Attn. PAGA Administrator
1515 Clay Street, Ste. 801
Oakland, California 94612

**Via Certified U.S. Mail – Return
Receipt Requested**

Golden Arch Enterprises, Inc. dba McDonald's
185 Butcher Road
Vacaville, California 95687

**Via Certified U.S. Mail – Return
Receipt Requested**

Golden Arch Enterprises dba McDonald's
6370 Mack Road
Sacramento, California 95823

Re: Notice Pursuant to California Labor Code § 2699.3

Employee: Blanca Estela Gutierrez Rodriguez

Employer: Golden Arch Enterprises, Inc. dba McDonald's

To Whom It May Concern:

This office represents Blanca Estela Gutierrez Rodriguez (“Ms. Gutierrez”), who is employed by Golden Arch Enterprises, Inc. dba McDonald’s (“Employer”). Pursuant to the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (“PAGA”), Labor Code § 2698, *et seq.*, this letter sets forth the specific provisions of the Labor Code and Industrial Welfare Commission (“IWC”) Wage Order No. 5-2001, which Ms. Gutierrez alleges Employer has violated, including the facts and theories to support the alleged violations. Please be advised that this letter constitutes written notice required by Labor Code § 2699.3, subdivisions (a)(1)(A) and (c)(1)(A) and may lead to immediate action against Employer in a court of law and/or administrative proceedings, as well as the imposition of substantial penalties and other remedies against Employer. Concurrently herewith, our office is also transmitting payment in the amount of \$75.00 for the requisite filing fee, pursuant to Labor Code § 2699.3, subdivisions (a)(1)(B) and (c)(1)(B).

Additionally, this letter serves as notice of Ms. Gutierrez’s demand for preservation and non-spoilation of evidence, requesting that all relevant documents and data be saved and that all

MATERN LAW GROUP, PC

January 14, 2026

Page 2 of 9

electronic files and hard-copy documents that are related to Ms. Gutierrez's employment and potential claims must be preserved, even without a court order.

Spoliation of evidence may result in legal claims for damages and monetary and evidentiary sanctions, including "adverse inference" jury instructions. Furthermore, intentional spoliation of evidence may carry criminal consequences pursuant to California Penal Code § 135.

We are investigating a potential class and representative action on behalf of Employer's current and former non-exempt employees in the State of California regarding, among other things, the following violations: failure to provide meal and rest periods to employees in violation of Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, §§ 11–12; failure to pay one additional hour of compensation at the employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday that a meal or rest period is not provided in violation of Labor Code § 226.7 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, §§ 11(B) and 12(B); failure to pay employees minimum wages for all hours worked in violation of Labor Code §§ 1194, 1197 and 1197.1 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 4; failure to pay employees overtime wages in violation of Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 3; failure to pay sick time at the employee's regular rate of compensation in violation of Labor Code § 246; failure to timely pay employees all wages earned in violation of Labor Code § 204; failure to furnish accurate itemized wage statements to employees in violation of Labor Code § 226; failure to maintain required records pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226, 1174 and 1174.5 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 7; unlawful deductions and withholdings from employees' wages in violation of Labor Code §§ 221, 223 and 224; and failure to indemnify employees for all necessary expenditure and losses in violation of Labor Code § 2802.

The allegations made by Ms. Gutierrez on behalf of herself and all other similarly-situated current and former non-exempt employees of Employer in the State of California during the four years preceding the date of this notice are based on the following facts and theories: meal periods were less than thirty minutes, late (first meal periods starting after the fifth hour of work and/or second meal periods starting after the tenth hour), not given at all (including second meal periods after ten hours of work), or interrupted; rest periods were less than ten minutes, not provided, interrupted, and/or late; employees were not provided one hour of pay for each workday a meal period was not provided; employees were not provided one hour of pay for each workday a rest break was not authorized and permitted; and employees were not paid proper minimum and overtime wages for all hours worked, nor were they paid sick pay at their regular rate of compensation as required by California law.¹ Given the overtime, meal period and rest period violations and Employer's failure to compensate its employees fully, as set forth above, employees' wage statements were inaccurate and failed to comply with California law. Additionally, Employer failed to reimburse employees for necessary business expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties. In short, Employer's unlawful employment practices and policies has deprived its employees of earned wages and other compensation.

¹ "[T]he statement that defendant has not provided its employees with proper rest periods states both the facts and the theory." *Gutierrez v. California Commerce Club, Inc.* (2010) 187 Cal.App.4th 969, 979 n.5.

January 14, 2026

Page 3 of 9

Failure to Provide Meal Periods

Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 11, an employer is required to provide meal periods to its employees. An employer must provide a meal period to any employee who works a shift of more than five (5) hours and a second meal period to any employee who works a shift of more than ten (10) hours. Furthermore, an employer must pay one extra hour of compensation for each workday a meal period is not provided.

If an employee is not relieved of all duty during a meal period, the meal period shall be considered an “on duty” meal period and counted as time worked. A paid “on duty” meal period is permitted only when 1) the nature of the work prevents an employee from being relieved of all duty and 2) the parties have agreed in writing to on duty meal periods.

Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees were and are non-exempt employees and are entitled to the protections of California Labor Code §§ 226.7 and 512 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 11. Employer failed to provide its employees timely and uninterrupted thirty-minute meal breaks. In fact, Ms. Gutierrez’s and other aggrieved employees’ meal periods were short (less than thirty minutes), late (first meal periods after the fifth hour of work and second meal periods after the tenth hour), interrupted and/or missed. Employer consistently failed to provide Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees compliant meal breaks because Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees needed supervisor approval in order to take meal breaks, but often did not receive such approval before the end of their fifth hour of work. Additionally, Ms. Gutierrez’s and other aggrieved employees’ meal breaks were regularly short and interrupted because they were given too much work to perform.

Employer further violated Labor Code § 226.7 and Wage Order No. 5-2001 by failing to compensate Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees who were not provided with meal periods in accordance with California law one additional hour of pay at each employee’s regular rate of compensation for each workday a meal period was not provided.

Failure to Authorize and Permit Rest Periods

Pursuant to Labor Code § 226.7 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 12, an employer is required to provide rest periods to its employees. An employer must provide a ten (10) minute rest period for every four (4) hours worked or major action thereof which insofar as practicable shall be in the middle of each work period. Furthermore, an employer must pay one extra hour of compensation for each workday a rest period is not authorized and permitted.

Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees were and are non-exempt employees and are entitled to the protections of Labor Code § 226.7 and Wage Order No. 5-2001. Employer failed to authorize and permit its employees to take required rest periods. Specifically, Employer maintained a policy or practice of not authorizing and permitting Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees to take one 10-minute rest break for shifts 3.5-6.0 hours, a second rest break for shifts greater than 6 hours and less than or equal to 10 hours, and a third rest break for shifts in

MATERN LAW GROUP, PC

January 14, 2026

Page 4 of 9

excess of 10 hours. Employer consistently failed to authorize and permit Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees to take rest breaks because Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees were given too much work to perform during their shifts to take compliant rest breaks. Furthermore, Employer maintained an unlawful on-premises rest break policy. When Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees were able to take rest breaks, Employer failed to authorize and permit Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees to take their rest breaks in the middle of each work period insofar as practicable.

Employer further violated Labor Code § 226.7 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 12 by failing to pay Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees one additional hour of pay at each employee's regular rate of compensation for each workday a rest period was not authorized and permitted.

Failure to Pay Minimum Wages

Pursuant to Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 4, payment to an employee of less than the applicable minimum wage for all hours worked in a payroll period is unlawful.

Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees are current and former non-exempt employees and are entitled to the protections of Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 4. Employer failed to pay Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees minimum wages for all hours worked by, among other things: requiring, suffering or permitting Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees to work off-the-clock; requiring, suffering or permitting Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees to work during their meal breaks but not compensating them for this time; illegally and inaccurately recording time worked by Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees; failing to properly maintain Ms. Gutierrez's and other aggrieved employees' records; failing to provide accurate itemized wage statements to Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees for each pay period; and other methods to be discovered. For example, Employer's supervisors required Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees to clock out at their scheduled shift end time, but Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees had to continue working off-the-clock until their assigned workload was complete. Also, as alleged above, Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees were required to work off-the-clock during their meal breaks.

Employer's conduct violates Labor Code §§ 1194 and 1197 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 4.

Failure to Pay Overtime Wages

Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 3, an employer must compensate its employees for all overtime, which is calculated at one and one-half (1 ½) times the regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours per day and/or forty (40) hours per week, and for the first eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive work day,

January 14, 2026

Page 5 of 9

with double time for all hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh day of any workweek, or after twelve (12) hours in any workday.

Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees are current and former non-exempt employees and are entitled to the protections of Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194 and Wage Order No. 5-2001. Employer failed to compensate Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees for all overtime hours worked as required under the foregoing provisions of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Order by, among other things: failing to pay overtime at one and one-half (1 ½) times or double the regular rate of pay as provided by Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 3; failing to include all remuneration in the calculation of the regular rate of pay; requiring, suffering or permitting Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees to work off-the-clock; requiring, suffering or permitting Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees to work during meal periods but not compensating them for this time; illegally and inaccurately recording time worked by Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees; failing to properly maintain Ms. Gutierrez's and other aggrieved employees' records through falsifying hours worked; failing to provide accurate itemized statements to Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees for each pay period; and other methods to be discovered. As an example, Employer's supervisors required Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees to clock out at their scheduled shift end time, but Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees had to continue working off-the-clock until their assigned workload was complete. Also, as alleged above, Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees were required to work off-the-clock during their meal breaks.

In violation of California law, Employer has refused to perform its obligation to compensate Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees for all wages earned and all hours worked. Employer's conduct violates Labor Code §§ 510 and 1194 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 3.

Failure to Timely Pay All Wages Earned

Pursuant to Labor Code § 204, an employer must pay its employees at least twice a month for all wages earned during the preceding pay period. Labor Code § 204 provides that labor performed between the 1st and 15th days, inclusive, of any calendar month shall be paid for between the 16th and the 26th day of the month during which the labor was performed, and labor performed between the 16th and the last day, inclusive, of any calendar month, shall be paid for between the 1st and 10th day of the following month. An employer using an alternate payday schedule must pay wages within seven calendar days of the end of the payroll period in which the wages were earned.

Employer failed to pay Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees on their regularly scheduled payday for all work performed during the preceding pay period. Specifically, Employer required Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees to work off-the-clock without compensation and required Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees to work during required meal breaks without compensation, as alleged above. Additionally, Employer failed to pay Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees premium wages owed for each workday a meal period was not provided and each workday a rest period was not authorized and permitted. Furthermore,

January 14, 2026

Page 6 of 9

Employer failed to pay Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees overtime wages and sick pay at each employee's regular rate of compensation.

Employer also failed to pay Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees for the overtime wages they earned in violation of Labor Code § 204. Labor Code § 204 requires an employer to pay overtime wages no later than the payday for the next regular payroll period following the payroll period in which the overtime wages were earned. Employer knew it was required to pay overtime wages, yet on many occasions failed to pay Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees overtime wages on any payday.

Failure to Furnish Accurate Itemized Wage Statements

Labor Code § 226 requires every employer to furnish each of its employees an accurate itemized wage 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, (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.

Employer failed to provide Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees with timely and accurate itemized wage statements in writing showing each employee's gross wages earned, total hours worked, the number of piece-rate units earned and any applicable piece rate if the employee is paid on a piece-rate basis, all deductions made, net wages earned, the inclusive dates of the period for which the employee is paid, the name and address of the legal entity or entities employing Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees, and all applicable hourly rates in effect during each pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate, in violation of Labor Code § 226 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 7.

Specifically, Employer had knowledge it was not providing its employees with proper meal and rest breaks as detailed above; nevertheless, Employer knowingly failed to include in the wage statements the extra hour of compensation owed for each workday a meal break was not provided and each workday a rest break was not authorized and permitted. As a result, Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees lost wages. In addition, Employer had knowledge it was requiring employees to work off-the-clock and was not properly compensating its employees for all hours worked as alleged herein, yet Employer knowingly failed to include this time worked in the wage statements. As a result, Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees lost wages. Employer also did not properly calculate the regular rate of pay of Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees. As a result, Ms. Gutierrez's and other aggrieved employees' wage statements did not include all applicable hourly rates in effect during the pay period and the corresponding number of hours worked at each hourly rate.

MATERN LAW GROUP, PC

January 14, 2026

Page 7 of 9

Failure to Maintain Required Records

Employer failed to maintain records as required under Labor Code §§ 226 and 1174 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 7, including but not limited to the following records: total daily hours worked by each employee; applicable rates of pay; all deductions; meal periods; time records showing when each employee begins and ends each work period; and accurate itemized statements.

Specifically, Employer had knowledge it was not providing its employees with proper meal and rest breaks as detailed herein; nevertheless, Employer knowingly failed to include in the wage statements the extra hour of compensation owed for each workday a meal break was not provided and each workday a rest break was not authorized and permitted. In addition, Employer had knowledge it was requiring employees to work off-the-clock and was not properly compensating its employees for all hours worked as alleged above, yet Employer knowingly failed to include this time worked in the regular rate of pay of aggrieved employees.

Failure to Indemnify Employees for Necessary Expenditures Incurred in Discharge of Duties

Labor Code § 2802(a) requires an employer to indemnify an 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. Employer failed to indemnify Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees for all business expenses and/or losses incurred in direct consequence of the discharge of their duties while working under the direction of Employer, such as expenses for personal cell phone usage and other employment-related expenses. Ms. Gutierrez, for example, was required to use her personal cell phone for work-related purposes, but was not reimbursed for such cell phone use. Accordingly, Employer failed to reimburse Ms. Gutierrez and other aggrieved employees for expenses for cell phone usage, and other employment-related expenses, in violation of Labor Code § 2802.

This notice is hereby given to Employer and any and all related and/or alter ego companies, corporations, partnerships, and/or business entities, as well as against any and all officers, owners, directors, managers, managing agents, or entities who are or may be liable under California law for any of the violations alleged herein as to any locations or employees who worked at any time in the State of California.

This notice is made on behalf of all persons who are, were, or will be non-exempt employees of Employer, or any related or alter-ego company, corporation, partnership, and/or business entity at any time on or after a date four years prior to the date of this letter in the State of California.

MATERN LAW GROUP, PC

January 14, 2026

Page 8 of 9

This notice shall be construed as extending without limitation to any past, present, future, or continuing violation of the Labor Code, the applicable IWC Wage Order, or any applicable regulation which might be discovered as a result of a reasonable and diligent investigation made pursuant to this notice.

This notice shall further represent Ms. Gutierrez's reasonable attempt to settle her dispute with Employer prior to litigation. Pursuant to *Graham v. DaimlerChrysler Corp.* (2004) 34 Cal. 4th 553, this notice serves to apprise Employer of Ms. Gutierrez's aforementioned grievances and the proposed remedies as detailed below, while affording Employer reasonable opportunity to meet Ms. Gutierrez's demands.

Demand is hereby made that Employer shall agree, in writing received at this office no later than 30 calendar days from the postmark date of this notice, as follows:

1. Employer shall pay Ms. Gutierrez and all other similarly-situated persons employed by Employer at any time during the past 48 months back pay and compensation for the above-referenced violations.

2. Employer shall comply with all California labor laws and ensure that its non-exempt employees are paid proper overtime compensation and given required meal and rest periods.

3. Employer shall conduct a survey or interview all current and former non-exempt employees in California during the past 48 months to obtain information from them regarding the number of meal breaks which were not provided, the number of rest breaks which were not authorized and permitted, and the number of employees who were required to pay for cell phones or other expenditures in the discharge of their duties, with the investigation to be completed within 60 days.

4. Employer shall pay each employee one hour of pay for each workday he or she was not authorized and permitted one or more rest periods, as required by Labor Code § 226.7. Employer also shall pay each employee one hour of pay for each workday he or she was not provided one or more and meal periods, as required by Labor Code § 226.7.

5. Employer shall reimburse those employees who were forced to pay for any business expenses incurred for Employer's benefit, including but not limited to cell phone, and other work related expenses.

6. Employer shall pay accrued interest to all employees at the rate of 10 percent per annum for said unpaid wages.

7. Employer shall pay all penalties arising from the violations of the Labor Code and IWC Wage Order sections referenced above and pursuant to PAGA, Labor Code § 2698 *et seq.*, including but not limited to penalties under Labor Code 226.3, 558, 1174.5, 1182.12, 1197.1, 1198, 1199 and 2699 and Wage Order No. 5-2001, § 20.

MATERN LAW GROUP, PC

January 14, 2026

Page 9 of 9

If the Labor and Workforce Development Agency intends to investigate the allegations set forth herein, please notify this office of that decision by certified mail addressed to Matern Law Group, PC, 2101 E. El Segundo Blvd., Suite 403, El Segundo, California 90245. Additionally, please advise us if the Agency or Employer require additional information regarding Ms. Gutierrez's complaints.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

MATERN LAW GROUP, PC

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Olivia Green".

Olivia Green, Esq.