

**Summary of Harris County SOB Regs**

**SECTION 1: GENERALLY.....3-7**

- 1.1 a Regulations are promulgated pursuant to Chapter 243 of the Local Government Code.
- 1.2 a Any peace officer may enforce
- 1.2 b The Sheriff is designated the SOB Permit Administrator.
- 1.2(c) An offense under SOB Regs is a Class A misdemeanor. (Possible \$4,000 fine plus one year in jail)
- 1.2(e) Municipalities may execute interlocal agreements with the County.

**1.4 Definitions:**

Added to definitions for “SOB Owners” [1.4(o)] and “SOB Employees” [1.4(n)] of more specific. . Owners apply for Class 1 permits [1.4(o)(11)]; Employees apply for Class 2 permits [1.4(n)(11)].

**SECTION 2: CLASS 1 SOB PERMITS.....8-20**

- 2.1(a) Owners must have a Class 1 permit.
- 2.1(b) Additional requirements for applications.  
Sets out notice timelines and requirements for denial, suspension and revocation of Class 1 permits.
  - 2.11(a) Added the “Conduct of Employees, Independent Contractors and/or Customers” section prohibiting any person from engaging in “specialized sexual activities” or to use a “device,” such as, a sex robot within a SOB.
  - 2.12(b) Makes it a criminal violation if a SOB prohibits or prevents a peace officer or fire marshal from inspecting the SOB.
  - 2.14 Added a “Prohibited Conduct” section setting making it a violation of the Regs if 3 or more of the following offenses occur within a 365-day period in the SOB.
    - a. Prostitution, Promotion of prostitution, aggravated promotion of prostitution
    - b. Compelling prostitution
    - c. Employing a minor at a SOB
    - d. Trafficking of Persons
    - e. Sexual Conduct or performance by a child

Removed massage parlor language to be replaced with a separate Regulation to prohibit “Massage Parlors” as defined by the Local Government Code from operating in Harris County.

2.14 Added a “Prohibited Employment” section making it a violation for a SOB to hire or contract with anyone who has committed or is charged with certain crimes.

2.16 National Human Trafficking Hotline signs must be posted inside SOBs

**SECTION 3: CLASS 2 SOB PERMITS.....21-27**

**SECTION 4: ADULT MOTELS.....28-29**

New Separate Section for Adult Motels.

4.1(b) Changed the definition for Adult Motels. Offers images “which are characterized by the depiction or description of “specified sexual activities” or “specified anatomical areas”; and has a sign visible from the public right-of-way which advertises the availability of this type of material;” or “regularly offers a sleeping room for rent for a period of time that is less than ten (10) hours.”

4.5 Added Check-in Requirements for Adult Motels, requiring photocopy of photo id.

**SECTION 5: ADULT CABARETS.....30-31**

New Separate Section for Adult Cabarets.

5.1(a) “Adult Cabaret” means a commercial establishment which has live performances which are characterized by the exposure of any portion of the areola of the breast and intended to provide sexual stimulation or gratification..

5.3 Added Hours of Operation section prohibiting Adult Cabarets from operating between 2am and 10am.

5.4 Added “Public Right-of-Way” section prohibiting an employee or owner of an Adult Cabaret from appearing in a state of nudity in a public right-of-way.

**SECTION 6: ADULT CABARET ENTERTAINERS.....32-33**

New Separate Section for Adult Cabaret Entertainers.

6.3 Added a “Six Feet Rule” Entertainer may not perform within six feet of a patron.

6.4(a) Added a “Prohibited Conduct” section prohibiting the following by Adult Cabaret Entertainers:

- a. Exposing any portions of the pubic region, genitals, vulva and or anus on the premises of an Adult Cabaret,
- b. Engaging in sexual intercourse, masturbation, sodomy, oral copulation, flagellation or any other public sexual acts on the premises on an Adult Cabaret,
- c. Prostitution, promotion of prostitution, or aggravated promotion of prostitution,
- d. Engaging in compelling prostitution,
- e. Engaging in trafficking of persons;
- f. Engaging in sexual conduct or performance by a child.

**SECTION 7: ADULT BOOKSTORES, THEATERS AND ARCADES.....34-36**

New Separate section Adult Bookstores, Adult Theaters and Adult Arcades.

7.1(a)(2) Adult Arcades now include businesses where the public is invited to interact with a device or object including an anthropomorphic device or object designed for one or many person to engage in specified sexual activities with the device or object. [Sex Robots]

7.4 Added an “Hours of Operation” section prohibiting Adult Bookstores, Theaters and Arcades from operating between the hours of 2am and 10am.

7.5(a) Added a Viewing Rooms/Viewing Booths section prohibiting more than one individual in the room or booth at any time or the room or booth from being locked.

7.5(d) Live entertainment is prohibited in a viewing room or viewing booth.

**SECTION 8: ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.....37**

Includes a severance clause and states that these regulations are cumulative of “authority that Harris County and its incorporated municipalities have to regulate SOBs and does not limit that authority.”