



Erie County Department of Public Advocacy

Division of Consumer Protection

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**NOTICE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE
ERIE COUNTY DIRECTOR OF CONSUMER PROTECTION
REGARDING
ERIE COUNTY LOCAL LAW NO. 1-2026 (2026)**

1. Authority, Purpose, Scope, Applicability, and Effective Date.

1.1 Authority. These rules and regulations are promulgated by the Director of the Division of Consumer Protection pursuant to Local Law No. 1-2026, § 6(a) (2026) titled "Biometrics Transparency and Privacy Act". The Director is authorized to enforce Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026) and may receive complaints, conduct investigations, and promulgate rules necessary to implement Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026).

1.2 Purpose. The purpose of these rules is to implement and enforce Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026), protect the privacy and security of individuals within the County of Erie and to prevent harm arising from the Collection, storing, procuring, Use, Selling or otherwise monetizing of Biometric Identifier Information, and establish clear obligations, processes, violations and penalties.

1.3 Scope and Applicability. These rules apply to all Commercial Establishments in possession of Biometric Identifier Information.

1.4 Effective Date. **June 5, 2026.**

2. Definitions.

"Biometric Identifier"- means physical or biological traits of your body, including but not limited to fingerprints, hand geometry, voiceprints, retina/iris scans and facial features.

"Biometric Identifier Information"- or "Biometric Information" refers to data that depict or describe physical, biological, or behavioral traits, characteristics, or measurements of or relating to an identified or identifiable person's body regardless of how it is captured, converted, stored, or Shared. Biometric Information includes, but is not limited to,

depictions, images, descriptions, or recordings of an individual's facial features, iris or retina, finger or handprints, voice, genetics, or characteristic movements or gestures (e.g., gait or typing pattern). Biometric Information also includes data derived from such depictions, images, descriptions, or recordings, to the extent that it would be reasonably possible to identify the person from whose information the data had been derived.

“Biometric Template”- means a digital or analog representation, vector, hash, code, or profile generated from a Biometric Identifier, which is Used or intended to be Used for identification, verification, authentication, or recognition purposes.

“Capture”- means to sense, scan, image, sample, or to otherwise detect a Biometric Identifier, whether directly from an individual or from media (including photographs, video, or audio).

“Collection”- means to obtain, Capture, receive, derive, create, record, or otherwise acquire a Biometric Identifier, Biometric Information, or Biometric Template by any means, including passive means, streaming, or real-time processing.

“Commercial Establishment”- means any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, organization, or other entity that operates a place of business within Erie County and offers goods or services to the public, whether for profit or not for profit. The term “Commercial Establishment” Shall not be construed to include any government agency, employees, or agents acting within the scope of their governmental duties.

“Commercial Setting”- means any physical location within Erie County where public accommodations, advantages, facilities, or privileges in the nature of goods, services, lodgings, amusements, transportation or otherwise are offered to the public. “Commercial Settings” do not include institutions, bona fide clubs, private residences, or public places of accommodation that are distinctly private by nature.

“Clearly and Conspicuously Posted”- means that the written notice and destruction policy described in Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5 (a) (2026) must be posted within the physical location of the Commercial Establishment, in a conspicuous location, using lettering and wording that is easily visible and understandable to the average Customer.

“Consent”- as it limitedly applies to the Licensed Funeral Establishment Exception identified by Rule 11.3, means a clear, affirmative, informed, and unambiguous indication of an individual's wishes, signified by a statement or by a clear opt-in action, that signifies an agreement to obtain Biometric Information for a specific limited purposes and limited time for which such purposes and timing are disclosed at the time of Consent. Consent must be freely given, specific, granular, informed, and documented. Silence, pre-ticked boxes, inactivity, or broad acceptance of general terms do not constitute Consent. For Minors, Consent must be provided by a parent or legal guardian.

“Customer”- means a purchaser or lessee, or a prospective purchaser or lessee, of goods or services from a Commercial Establishment in a Commercial Setting.

“Day”- means calendar day unless otherwise specified.

“Decedent”- means a person who is no longer living.

“Destruction Policy”- means a written document, made available to the public outlining the Biometric Identifier Information collected, the date(s) when the information was collected, and the date when such information will be permanently deleted or destroyed.

“Director”- means the Director of the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection or any successor officer or office performing substantially similar functions.

“Disclose”- means to release, transfer, provide access to, or otherwise make available Biometric Identifiers, Biometric Information, or Biometric Templates to any third party, including affiliates.

“Division”- means the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection.

“Employer”- means any person or entity employing one or more individuals, including agents and designees.

“Exceptions”- means authorization to deviate from one or more requirements of this Local Law, subject to conditions, where the Commercial Establishment demonstrates eligibility under these Rules.

“Financial Institution”- means a bank, trust company, national bank, savings bank, federal mutual savings bank, savings and loan association, federal savings and loan association, federal mutual savings and loan association, credit union, federal credit union, branch of a foreign banking corporation, public pension fund, retirement system, securities broker, securities dealer or securities firm, but does not include a Commercial Establishment whose primary business is in the retail sale of goods and services to customers and provides limited financial services such as the issuance of credit cards or in-store financing to customers.

“Gaming Facility” – In accordance with 9 NYCRR §5300, Gaming Facility means the premises approved under a gaming license, which includes a gaming area and any other nongaming structure related to the gaming area and may include, without limitation, hotels, restaurants and other amenities.

“Injunctive Relief”- means temporary restraining orders, preliminary injunctions, or permanent injunctions issued by court.

“Licensed Funeral Establishment”- means a single physical location, address or premises devoted to or used for the care and preparation of a body of a deceased person for disposition and for mourning or funeral ceremonial purposes.

“New York State Gaming Commission”-means the official governing body that oversees casino gaming, charitable gaming, horse racing, lottery, and video lottery terminals in New York State.

“Next of Kin”- means a decedent’s closest living blood or legal relative.

“Prohibition”- means forbidden.

“Sell”- means to exchange Biometric Identifiers, Biometric Information, or Biometric Templates for monetary or other valuable consideration.

“Shall”- means mandatory.

“Share”- means to make available Biometric Identifiers, Biometric Information, or Biometric Templates to a third-party for cross-context behavioral, analytic, advertising, or other purposes not expressly authorized under a permitted exception.

“Violation”- means any act or omission that fails to comply with Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026) or these Rules and Regulations.

“Use”- means to apply, analyze, match, compare, infer from, or otherwise operate on Biometric Identifiers, Biometric Information, or Biometric Templates for any purpose.

3. General Prohibitions.

3.1 Core Prohibition. Commercial Establishments are prohibited from Collecting, storing, procuring, Using, and Selling or otherwise monetizing a Customer’s Biometric Identifier Information in Commercial Settings.

4. Notice.

4.1 Written Notice Applicability. Written Notice requirements of Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026) are only applicable to Commercial Establishments in possession of Biometric Identifier Information. Commercial Establishments that do not Collect, store, procure, Use, Sell or otherwise monetize a Customer’s Biometric Identifier Information may, but are not required to, submit written notice to the Director that they are not in possession of Biometric Identifier Information.

4.2 Written Notice Required. Pursuant to Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(a) (2026), Commercial Establishments in possession of Biometric Information must provide written notice of

possession of Biometric Identifier Information to the Director, no later than thirty (30) days from the effective date of this Local Law. Written notice must be in writing and Shall:

- i. include a summary of the amount and type of Biometric Information in possession of the Commercial Establishment; and
- ii. establish a Destruction Policy detailing the method and timing for permanent deletion or destruction of all such Biometric Information consistent with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5 (a) and (c) (2026).

4.3 Manner of Notice. Notice may be effectuated by the following:

- i. Commercial Establishments in possession of Biometric Information may utilize the Notice Form provided on the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection website located at erie.gov/biometrics.
 - (a.) A Commercial Establishment in possession of Biometric Information that chooses to utilize the Notice Form, may; (i.) complete the Notice Webform Submission directly on the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection website; or (ii.) complete and return a PDF copy of the Notice Form and return a copy *via* standard mail, email or fax to the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection.
- ii. A Commercial Establishment in possession of Biometric Information may choose to provide its own written notification to the Director provided that the written notice complies with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(a) (2026) and (1) includes a summary of the amount and type of Biometric Information in the possession of the Commercial Establishment; and (2) establishes a Destruction Policy detailing the method and timing for permanent deletion or destruction of all Biometric Information consistent with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(a) and (c) (2026).

4.4 Written Notice Time Limits. Pursuant to Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(a) (2026), Commercial Establishments in possession of Biometric Identifier Information must provide written notice to the Director no later than thirty (30) days from the effective date of Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026). Commercial Establishments in possession of Biometric Information must provide written notice to the Director, in accordance with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(a) (2026) no later than **July 6, 2026**.

4.5 Public Notice. A Commercial Establishment, in accordance with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(a) (2026), Shall publish, post and make available to the general public, in a clear and conspicuous location:

- i. a summary of the amount and type of Biometric Information in the possession of the Commercial Establishment; and
- ii. establish a Destruction Policy detailing the method and timing for permanent deletion or destruction of all Biometric Information consistent with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5 (a) and (c) (2026).

4.6 Public Notice Signage Requirements. A Commercial Establishment required to post in accordance with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(a) (2026), Shall:

- i. cause a wall-mounted sign to be placed at or near every customer entrance;
- ii. the sign must Use plain, simple language and provide the required notifications contained in Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(a) (2026);
- iii. the sign must be at least 8. 5 by 11 inches; and
- iv. the sign must be unobstructed from view and visible by the public.

4.7 Online Notice Requirements. Commercial Establishments required to comply with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5 (2026), are required to post a written notice on their homepage website that:

- i. a summary of the amount and type of Biometric Information in the possession of the Commercial Establishment; and
- ii. establish a Destruction Policy detailing the method and timing for permanent deletion or destruction of all Biometric Information consistent with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5 (a) and (c) (2026).

5. Destruction of Biometric Identifier Information.

5.1 Notice of Destruction. Pursuant to Local Law No. 1-2026, §5(c) (2026), a Commercial Establishment must provide an affidavit to the Director, certifying the permanent deletion or destruction of all Biometric Information in the Commercial Establishment's possession within thirty (30) days of providing written notice to the Director that the Commercial Establishment is in possession of Biometric Information as required by Local Law No. 1-2026, §5(a) (2026).

5.2 Manner and Type of Certification. A Commercial Establishment may comply with the certification of permanent deletion or destruction of all Biometric Information requirements as identified in Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(c) (2026), in the following ways:

- (i.) A Commercial Establishment may utilize the Certification of Destruction Form provided on the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection website located at erie.gov/biometrics.
 - (a.) A Commercial Establishment that chooses to utilize the Certification of Destruction Form, may (i.) complete the Certification of Destruction Webform Submission directly on the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection website; or (ii.) complete and return a PDF copy of the Certification of Destruction Webform and return a copy *via* standard mail, email or fax to the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection.
- (ii.) A Commercial Establishment required by Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(c) (2026), to certify the permanent deletion or destruction of all Biometric information in the commercial Establishment's possession may provide its own Affidavit to the Director provided that the Affidavit complies with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5 (a) and (c) (2026) requirement certifying the permanent deletion or destruction of all Biometric information in the possession of the Commercial Establishment.

5.3 Certification of Destruction Time Limits. Pursuant to Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(c) (2026), a Commercial Establishment in possession of Biometric Information must certify the permanent deletion or destruction of all Biometric Information in the Commercial Establishment's possession within thirty (30) days of providing written notice to the Director that such Commercial Establishment is in possession of Biometric Information.

5.4 Destruction Methods. Destruction methods utilized by the Commercial Establishment Shall render data irrecoverable, including secure deletion, cryptographic erasure, or physical destruction of media, documented in destruction certificates.

5.5 Security Safeguards. Commercial Establishments in possession of Biometric Identifier Information prior to the effective date of this law, must safeguard Biometric Identifier Information in its possession prior to permanent deletion or destruction.

6. Enforcement.

6.1 Designation. In accordance with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 6 (2026), the Director of Consumer Protection Shall be designated with enforcement of this Local Law, and may receive complaints, conduct investigations, and promulgate rules necessary to implement this Local Law, including rules establishing the form, content, and placement requirements for the written policy and notice to the Director required by Local Law 1-2026, § 5 (2026).

6.2 Complaints. A Consumer who believes a Commercial Establishment to be in Violation of this Local Law may submit a Complaint to the Division by completing the Webform Submission directly on the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection website located at erie.gov/cpcomplaint or by completing and returning a PDF copy of the Complaint Form *via* standard mail, email or fax to the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection.

6.3 Compliance Process. The Director, in accordance with Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026), may develop processes and internal procedures handling complaints, investigation and enforcement.

6.4 Investigation. The Director may conduct investigations in accordance with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 6 (a) (2026), including ensuring Commercial Establishments compliance with Local Law No. 1-2026.

7. Violations.

7.1 Notice of Violation. Pursuant to Local Law No. 1-2020, § 6 (2026) for alleged Violations of this Local Law, the Director shall issue a written Notice of Violation to the offending Commercial Establishment identifying:

- i. the alleged Violations, facts, and noncompliance;
- ii. corrective actions required by the Commercial Establishment;
- iii. a cure period of thirty (30) days from the date of the Notice of Violation; and
- iv. required corrective actions in accordance with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 6 (b)(i) (2026).

7.2 Required Corrective Actions. A Commercial Establishment that receives written Notice of Violation describing noncompliance of Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026) must cure the noncompliance within thirty (30) days of receiving the written Notice of Violation.

7.3 Cure Period. A Commercial Establishment must cure a Violation within the thirty-day (30) time period provided in the written Notice of Violation issued by the Director.

7.4 Certification of Cure for Violation of Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5 (2026). A Commercial Establishment that cures Violations of Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5 (2026) within the cure period must provide written certification which identifies the corrective actions taken to cure the Violations.

7.5 Commercial Establishments that cure noncompliance. If a Commercial Establishment cures the violation within the cure period and provides written certification of cure in a form acceptable to the Director, the Director may close the matter without civil penalty.

7.6 Failure to Cure. Failure to cure within the cure period and provide a written certification of cure in a form acceptable to the Director constitutes a Violation of Local Law No. 1-2026.

8. Calculation of Civil Penalties.

8.1 Penalties. A Commercial Establishment may be subject to Civil Penalties in accordance with Local Law 1-2026, § 6(c) (2026), as follows:

- i. A Commercial Establishment that violates Local Law No. 1-2026, § 4 (2026), may be subject to a Civil Penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00 per day for each day the Violation continues after the cure period has ended.
- ii. A Commercial Establishment that violates Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5 (2026), may be subject to a Civil Penalty in the amount of \$5,000.00 per day for each day the Violation continues after the cure period has ended.

8.2 Civil Penalty Time Calculations. Civil Penalties, pursuant to Local Law No. 1-2026, § 6(c)(i) and (ii) (2026), begin to accrue the day after the cure period, provided in the written Notice of Violation, has ended.

9. Referrals to the Erie County Attorney's Office.

9.1 Referrals to the Erie County Attorney's Office. Pursuant to Local Law No. 1-2026 § 6 (d) (2026), the Director may refer matters to the Erie County Attorney.

10. Individual Rights.

10.1 Consumer's Rights. Nothing in this law Shall obviate, prevent or otherwise alter any Customer's right to commence a separate and distinct civil action or proceeding for Injunctive Relief, damages and any other appropriate relief in law or equity against a Commercial Establishment who violates Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026).

10.2 Applicability of Settlements. No agreement entered into as part of a settlement, resolution or agreement to cure Violations between Erie County and any Commercial Establishment Shall be binding upon the Customer.

11. Exceptions.

11.1 Narrow Construction. Exceptions identified in Local Law No. 1-2026, § 7 (2026) and Rule No. 11 shall be construed narrowly. The Commercial Establishment requesting an Exception pursuant to Local Law No. 1-2026, § 7 (2026) or Rule No. 11 has the burden of establishing that the Exception is applicable to the Commercial Establishment.

11.2 Exceptions to Prohibition Requirements. In accordance with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 7 (2026) and Rules Nos. 11, 11.3 and 11.4 promulgated herein, the Prohibitions in Local Law No. 1-2026, § 4 (2026) and the requirements of Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5 (2026), do not apply:

- a. Compliance with law: to the extent necessary for a Commercial Establishment to comply with federal, state, or local laws.
- b. User verification. For User verification purposes by an individual to access the individual's own personal or Employer issued communication and electronic devices.
- c. Social Media Applications: In automatic face detection services utilized in social media applications.
- d. Warrant or Subpoena. In the event that disclosure is required pursuant to a valid warrant or subpoena issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- e. Photographs and Video Recordings: Photographs and video recordings are permitted in Commercial Establishments provided they (i) are not analyzed by software or digital or computing applications that identify, or that assist with the identification of, individuals based on physiological or biological characteristics, and (ii) the images or video are not Shared with, sold, leased, or otherwise distributed to third parties other than as required by law.
- f. Government: Nothing in this Local Law Shall apply to the Collection, storage, sharing, or Use of Biometric Identifier Information by government agencies, employees, or agents acting within the scope of their governmental duties.
- g. Financial Institutions: Nothing in this Local Law Shall apply to the Collection, storage, sharing, or Use of Biometric Identifier Information by Financial Institutions and their employees, or agents acting within the scope of their duties.

11.3 Licensed Funeral Establishment Exception

(a) Purpose and Scope. Notwithstanding Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026), a narrow exception is established to permit a Licensed Funeral Establishment to collect a Deceased individual's fingerprints, by Use of a digital scanner or traditional ink pad, upon the request and written Consent of the Decedent's Next of Kin.

(b) Permitted Purposes. A Licensed Funeral Establishment, and its authorized employees or agents, may collect, through digital scanning or ink print, a Deceased individual's fingerprints for the limited purpose of creating or generating a tangible keepsake/memorialization using the Decedent's fingerprint. A Licensed Funeral

Establishment is still prohibited from using biometric data for identification, tracking, aggressive or unsolicited advertisement of products or services, or any related purposes.

(c) Disclosure. A Licensed Funeral Establishment Shall Disclose, upon the Consent of a Decedent's Next of Kin, a copy of the fingerprint scan to (a) next of kin; and (b) a business to fulfill specific memorialization purposes.

(d) Retention Period. A Licensed Funeral Establishment Shall retain digital fingerprint information for only the short time necessary to fulfill the limited purpose of providing a Deceased Individual's Next of Kin a digital scan to fulfill the specific purpose, not to exceed one year [365 days] after the digital fingerprint record is created.

(e) Prohibition on Sale. Nothing in this limited exception Shall permit a Licensed Funeral Establishment authorization to disclosure for purposes other than expressly identified in this Exception, to Sell or otherwise monetize off of the Collection of a Decedent's fingerprints.

(f) Security. A Licensed Funeral Establishment in possession of a Decedent's digital fingerprint scan must maintain adequate security measures to protect information stored electronically from unauthorized Use, disclosure and breach.

(g) Destruction. Once the Retention Period has ended; the Licensed Funeral Establishment must permanently destroy the retained fingerprint scan upon the earliest of: (a) completion of the permitted purpose; (b) withdrawal of Consent; (c) expiration of retention period; or (d) court order. The permanent deletion or destruction must be documented and performed using methods that render data irrecoverable.

(h) Narrow Construction. This Rule Shall be construed narrowly and Shall not authorize any Collection, Use, disclosure, retention, or creation of Biometric Identifier Information beyond what is expressly stated in this Exception.

11.4 New York State Gaming Exception

a. Purpose and Scope. Notwithstanding Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026), a narrow exception is established where a Commercial Establishment physically located in Erie County operates a Gaming Facility, licensed by the New York State Gaming Commission, where the Collection, Use, retention and disclosure of Biometric Information is wholly regulated pursuant to the Rules and Regulations of the New York State Gaming Commission.

b. Narrow Construction. This Rule Shall be construed narrowly for the limited purposes of compliance with those Rules and Regulations of the New York State Gaming Commission and Shall not permit the sale or other monetization of persons Biometric Identifier Information.

12. Exception Process.

12.1 Manner and Type of Exception. Any Commercial Establishment seeking an Exception from Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026), must submit a written request asserting an Exception contained within Local Law No. 1-2026, § 7 (2026) or Rule No. 11, by submitting a written request to the Director of the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection.

12.2 Manner and type of written request. A Commercial Establishment may submit a written request pursuant to one of the limited Exceptions identified by Local Law No. 1-2026, § 7 (2026) or Rule No. 11, in the following ways:

- i. A Commercial Establishment may utilize the Request for Exception Form provided on the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection website located at erie.gov/biometrics;
 - (a.) A Commercial Establishment that chooses to utilize the Request for Exception Form, may (i.) complete the Request for Exception Webform Submission directly on the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection website; or (ii.) complete and return a copy *via* standard mail, email or fax to the Erie County Division of Consumer.
- ii. A Commercial Establishment may choose to provide its own written request for Exception to the Director provided that the written request identifies the following information:
 - (a.) Commercial Establishment Entity Information;
 - (b.) Description of the amount and type of Biometric Information in its possession;
 - (c.) Purpose/Function;
 - (d.) Legal Basis for Exception;
 - (e.) Documentation which supports the Commercial Establishments position that an Exception from Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026) is applicable.

12.3 Documentation. In accordance with Rule No. 12.2(e), a Commercial Establishment Shall submit all documentation which establishes the applicability of an Exception which is identified in Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026) or Rule No. 11. Documentation may include, but is not limited to:

- i. Official Government Contracts which establish an agreement with a federal, state or local government;
- ii. copies of federal, state or local law which require collection, use, retention, and/or disclosure necessary to comply with the federal, state or local law;
- iii. written employment/employee policies; or
- iv. any other documentation which supports the Commercial Establishments position that an Exception is applicable.

12.4 Review. The County Shall review all Requests for Exceptions to determine the applicability of the requested Exception.

12.5 Determination. The Director will notify the Commercial Establishment once a decision has been made.

13. Records Retention.

13.1 Retention. A Commercial Establishment required to Certify the deletion and destruction of Biometric Information in accordance with Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(c) (2026) Shall retain such records for a period of seven (7) years, or longer where enforcement or legal proceedings are pending.

14. Continued Compliance and Enforcement.

14.1 Continued Compliance Required. The Prohibition as identified by Local Law No. 1-2026 and Rule No. 3 herein Shall remain in full force and effect after the effective date of this law.

14.2 Change in Status. In the event a change in status occurs and a Commercial Establishment that was not in possession of Biometric Information upon the effective date of this Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026) subsequently becomes in possession of Biometric Information after the thirty (30) day period required by Local Law No. 1-2026, § 5(a) (2026), such Commercial Establishment Shall immediately provide written notification to the Director in accordance with Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026).

15. Publication.

15.1 Publication of Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026). Pursuant to Local Law No. 1-2026, § 8 (2026), the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection Shall make available to the Public a copy of Local Law No. 1-2026 (2026) on the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection website.

16. Severability.

16.1 Validity. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

17. Contact Information.

17.1 Questions about these rules may be directed to: the Director of the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection, 95 Franklin Street, Buffalo, New York 14202, Tel. No.: (716) 858-1987.

18. Rules and Regulations.

18.1 Effective Date. These Rules and Regulations Shall be in full force and effect at the time of publication upon the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection website.

18.2 Review. The Erie County Division of Consumer Protection, through the Director, reserves the right to change, modify, or update these rules and regulations at any time. Notices of any changes will be provided on the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection website, and the updated rules will supersede all previously published versions.

Adopted by the Director of the Erie County Division of Consumer Protection on June 5, 2026.

By: 
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