

News

Selected State: **National**

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New York Task Force to Target Misclassification of Employees

New York Governor Eliot Spitzer has issued a new Executive Order that creates a Joint Enforcement Task Force to address the problem of improper classification of workers as independent contractors rather than employees.

In announcing the Executive Order, Spitzer noted that misclassified employees can be deprived of numerous protections to which they are legally entitled. Businesses can use misclassification to avoid complying with laws governing unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, social security, tax withholding, temporary disability insurance, minimum wage, and overtime.

Effective immediately, the Executive Order will allow for greater coordination among state agencies charged with classification enforcement and create a new Joint Enforcement Task Force led by the Department of Labor.

The Task Force will work to strengthen enforcement and avoid duplication of efforts by sharing relevant information, coordinating investigations and enforcement actions, and educating the business community and the public at large. The Task Force will be required to issue a report to the Governor on February 1 of each year, detailing its actions, and suggesting potential legislative or regulatory changes in this area.

"For too long State government has turned a blind eye on a growing epidemic that is keeping wages and benefits artificially low for working New Yorkers," says Spitzer.

Link

- [Text of Executive Order](#)

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