

Tips for Tricking around Town: A Guide for New Workers

This booklet includes information about:

- prostitution laws in Canada!
- tips for working pros!
- BDSM contacts!

It also includes:

- tips on advertising, safety & places to get safer sex supplies
- contact information for local organizations that support us and our work!

For more information call Maggie's at 416-964-0150 or visit at 298A Gerrard St. East (north east corner of Gerrard and Parliament) on the second floor. Email: sexworkisrealwork@maggiestoronto.ca

You are welcome at Maggie's weekly drop-in The Lounge on Wednesdays 2-5, at Maggie's events (check online at www.maggiestoronto.ca) or call for an appointment.

The Law

It is not against the law to be a prostitute and have sex for money in Canada, although most of the ways that prostitutes work are against the law. For instance, if you are on the street or in a car and offer someone sex for money, you can be charged with "communicating for the purposes of prostitution in a public place."

If you take someone back to your place (incall), you could be charged with "keeping a common bawdy house."

If you work with friends out of a shared space or a shared hotel room, you could also be charged with "keeping a common bawdy house."

A bawdy house is another word for brothel. In the law, it is defined as "any place that is kept or occupied or resorted to by one or more persons for the purpose of prostitution or the practice of acts of indecency". In August 2011, the federal government made the penalties against bawdy houses even more serious.

If you are caught having sex with a client in a car or alleyway, you can be charged with "Committing An Indecent Act".

If you hire someone to drive you to your appointments with clients, be your receptionist or rent a work space from, they could be charged with "living off the avails of prostitution"

Basically, to avoid getting busted, you must

- work for yourself and alone
- talk to clients over the phone or the internet
- only see people at their place (outcalls)

Safety

However, many workers do choose to host at their own place or a hotel despite the legal risk because hosting offers other types of safety.

-You know your own place

-You can have a friend nearby in case of trouble

-There is no risk of discovering another person in the space—as can happen at your client's house

TIP

Because it is illegal to work in your own home or any space that you regularly use for prostitution (e.g. sharing a work space with another sex worker) if you do so, you are at risk of arrest for “operating a common bawdy house”. However, these arrests take place after a lengthy investigation, with multiple visits by undercover cops and these busts are relatively rare.

Health

For safer sex supplies like condoms, lube, female condoms and safer drug using supplies (new needles and safer crack kits/inhalation kits), come to Maggie's. You can also pick up safer sex supplies in the waiting room of Hassle Free Clinic at 66 Gerrard St. East, 2nd floor.

Hassle-Free Women's Clinic 416-922-0566 Men's Clinic 416-922-0603.

TIP

Sexual health services as well as the morning after pill is available from the Hassle Free Clinic (66 Gerrard St. East, 2nd floor)

If you can see it in the light, try to inspect the client's dick for signs of infection. If you see something you're not sure about, you can try to refuse the date or choose a sexual activity that reduces your risk (e.g. handjob or a covered blowjob). Booklets with images of common STIs are available at Maggie's.

Always try to get the money upfront. “Let's get business out of the way so we can have some fun together”. Count the money discreetly to be sure it's all there. E.g. go to the washroom to “freshen up” and count it.

Remember there are a million ways to get out of a bad situation (e.g. sweet talk, go limp, create a distraction, fight) and whatever works for you is the best way. Trust your instinct.

When working on the street

Know where you are. Make sure to be mindful and respectful of the rules on the stretch of track you want to work on.

Work in a well-lit, populated area when possible. While this can discourage bad dates, it may lead to unwanted attention from police, neighbours etc.

Use a pay-as-you-go phone service or check for phone booths. Try to work with a partner who can take down license plate info of the cars you get into. Check the back seat of all cars before you get in.

TIP

If you use a private place, a private phone and a private computer to discuss your services, your work is legal. Communicating for the purposes of prostitution must occur in a public place to be criminal. But be careful: phone booths and cellular phones *not used at home* are considered “a public place”.

TIP

You don't have to talk to the police. You **must** provide correct identification. If you are under arrest: be polite, co-operate, don't fight or resist, and SAY NOTHING but your correct name and address until you have spoken to a lawyer. Be careful not to say anything as it's very easy to incriminate yourself or others (e.g. “he's my driver, not my “pimp!”)

When working indoors

If working at your place, do not post your address online. Give the client an idea of the area where you are located (e.g. a nearby intersection) and ask the client to call a few minutes before the appointment. Only then give him the exact address.

Don't leave your phone, ID, or any other personal effects where clients can see it. Keep your purse and money and safer sex supplies close at hand at all times (e.g. if you go to use the toilet, take your purse/money/ID/phone with you.)

Screening—indoor and street work

When going someplace with a client, tell a co-worker where you're going and how long you'll be gone.

Your most important safety screening is your intuition. If you feel like he's sketchy trust your instincts. You can refuse to see him or cancel later or ask a friend to be closeby during the appointment.

You can choose to require the client to give you personal information about himself to feel safer, such as his legal name, his phone number, his address, his workplace and/or a reference from another worker. Different workers use different levels of information to feel safe. E.g. if he is staying at a hotel, ask for his name and room number and call the hotel back to be sure he is really staying there. Or, after you've booked a call with a client, call the client right back at his cell phone number provided to be sure it's a working number.

Many workers refuse to answer calls from or book appointments with clients who call from private or blocked numbers. You can google search the phone number or email address that he's used to contact you. This may give you his real name and/or workplace. It could also notify you if he's been a problem for other sex workers as workers will sometimes post about bad clients to bad-client websites.

If your client has emailed you and you use gmail you can easily see the location of the computer he's used to contact you. Under “reply” click “show original”. This will open up a document listing among other things, the IP address of the computer. Cut and paste that into google and you will find out what city, country and even postal code that computer was located in when he sent you his

message. Keep in mind this means he can do the same for any emails you send him (and can find out your postal code where you sent your messages from).

Safety Calls—indoor and street work

Shortly after meeting the client (at his place or yours), call someone in front of the client, tell them how long you will be and when you will call again to say you are fine. Give them the name and if you are at the client's house or hotel, give them the address and/or room number. ("Hey, I'm just got here with Carl at 123 Fifth St, apartment B and I'll be calling you again in an hour")

If you're working alone and do not have a safety-person, make it look like you're calling someone—call your answering machine to leave the phone number, address and/or room number. Be sure your client is aware that the call has been made. You can tell the client "I'm just going to make my safety call now and then we can have some fun".

Discuss with your safety-person how you would like them to help you if you are in trouble. E.g. If you are not okay but want the client to think everything is just fine, work out a code phrase with a friend to communicate with them discreetly that you need them to come get you. Or alternately that you want them to call the police. Your safety person should know whether would ever want them to call the police and if so, under what circumstances. Or is there someone else you'd want them to call? Discuss this with your safety-person.

Collective Strength & Skill Building

Consider what skills and resources you have or need to get in order to support yourself in your work.

You will likely have a ton of questions about how to build your business, how much to charge, how to deal with racism, transphobia and other forms of discrimination in the industry, handling relationships and sex work, how to make more money and handle certain types of calls. The best way to get all of these questions answered is to connect with other current workers who know what's going on in your part of the industry in your city, right now.

If you are in Toronto, Maggie's hosts meetings for current workers as well as offering an online discussion board where workers swap information about working and about bad or time-wasting clients.

Dancing and Massage in Southern Ontario

Some regions require licensing in order to freelance, and some don't.

For the most up to date information, go to maggiestoronto.ca/legal_updates and check out "The Rules: Maggie's Practical Guide to Stripping and Erotic Massage Licensing In Toronto (2011)" for practical advice on how to get a stripping or erotic massage license in Toronto and the surrounding regions.

BDSM Work

Two well-equipped dungeons are:

- 1) Mistress Patricia Marsh www.patriciamarsh.com 416-963-9817
- 2) Kink Den www.kinkden.com 416-953-6773

You can rent space and equipment at both of these facilities for about \$100 an hour and the spaces are open to everyone, pros and couples.

Toronto Foot Night <http://www.footnight.com/toronto>
Regular night catering to foot fetish clientele that regular seeks out new models/workers. Be wary of promises of big money and of being asked to provide free sexual services in your interview.

Some regular fetish parties in Toronto
Kink 4 Play www.mydungeon.ca 2nd Sat of each month at Cathedral (The Big Bop, 651 Queen Street West)
Fetish Masquerade www.fetishmasquerade.com (Nocturne, 550 Queen Street West)
Subspace www.subspacelive.ca

Phone Sex

niteflirt.com is a good place to start looking for help and ideas on getting paid for phone sex, sending emails, photos, stories. Check out psosupport.com for more info about this part of the industry.

Toronto Advertising

Note that each advertiser has strict rules on what you can and can't say in a legal advertisement. Browse other ads to get a sense of the ads and follow the rules or it might take a lot longer for your ad to go up. Also watch out to not break any of their rules, as they have been known to permanently ban sex workers who break them. These workers then lose all the possible revenue from that advertising venue.

Online ads:
backpage.com
theredzone.com
terb.ca (Toronto Escort Review Board, membership required)
eros.com
shemalecanada.com

Voice Ads:
TheRedZone.com Ad placement line: 416-979-1912

TIP

T-girls--There are two clubs in the GTA that we know of – check out www.ladyplus.com for information about working.

TIP

Ask the person in charge of the classified ads how to best advertise your services. Often they are knowledgeable about sex work ads.

Print ads:
NOW magazine Ad placement line: 416-364-1500 (online NOW sex work ads are hosted by backpage.com)

TIP

Be wise in your wording. It's safer not to advertise that you do in-calls (which indicates that you are breaking the bawdy-house laws). Outcalls to a hotel or a client's home are the only legal ways to work in Canada.

Adult Stores

Condom Shack 231 Queen Street West 416-596-7515

Come as you are 701 Queen Street West 416-504-7934

www.comeasyouare.com (ask for 10% discount for sex workers)

Good for Her 175 Harbord Street 416-588-0900 www.goodforher.com (ask for 10% discount for sex workers)

Seduction 577 Yonge Street 416-966-6969 (ask for 10% discount for sex workers)