

McV ALERT
August 29, 2008

**New Law Requires Businesses to Post Signs Promoting
Public Awareness of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome**

On June 2, 2008, Act 79 was enacted to bring awareness and to prevent incidences of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome among women who are planning to become pregnant or are pregnant.

Effective August 31, 2008, all businesses and establishments that sell and/or serve alcoholic beverages, such as bars, restaurants, supermarkets, liquor stores, gas stations, hotels, etc., must prominently post a sign, which was prepared by the Department of Health, throughout the establishment, in places such as the entrances, cash registers, display shelves, and women's rest rooms.

The sign shall warn that alcohol consumption during pregnancy has been determined to be harmful to the fetus and can cause birth defects, low birth weight and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, which is one of the leading causes of mental retardation.

The sign to be posted is the one that was prepared by the Department of Health. However, such sign will not be available until the end of next week.

If a restaurant or cafeteria has a menu which includes alcoholic beverages, it must also include a warning in the menu about the negative effects of alcohol on the baby and the possibility of developing Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Any business that fails to comply with the provisions of this Act may be subject to a penalty in the amount of \$50 daily.

If you have any questions regarding the scope, effect or application of this Act, please contact any of the following attorneys:

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