

Get Involved! **Help Save Maryland!**

Illegal immigration hurts Montgomery County businesses in many ways. Providing social services to illegal immigrants adds to your tax burden and means less funding for other County services. Illegal immigration adds to crime, gang violence, traffic congestion, pollution, identity theft, school overcrowding, failing hospitals, and other quality-of-life issues.

But together we can do something about this growing socio-economic problem! Join other concerned Maryland citizens of **Help Save Maryland** in fighting to eliminate the use of our tax dollars on programs and services for illegal aliens in Maryland.

Help Save Maryland is a grassroots, multi-ethnic citizen's organization with members in 18 Maryland counties and Baltimore City. **Help Save Maryland** welcomes as members all U.S. citizens and legal residents of any ethnic heritage who believe that the presence of illegal aliens in Maryland poses an unacceptable economic burden and physical threat to our communities and families, and must be opposed in a manner consistent with the law and due respect for the inherent worth of all individuals.

Membership is free!
Join today!



Help Save Maryland
PO Box 5742
Rockville MD 20855
www.HelpSaveMaryland.com
Email: HelpSaveMaryland@yahoo.com

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A Business Owner's Guide to Illegal Immigration

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
E D I T I O N**



**A Public Service Resource
Developed by
*Help Save Maryland***

How to Stop Unwanted Loitering & Increase Your Business



Illegal immigrants who congregate on your property looking for work harm your business. Their presence scares away customers – especially women, who are often frightened or verbally harassed. Unemployed loiterers frequently litter, urinate in public, drink alcohol, and act disorderly, giving your establishment a run-down, unpleasant appearance. Customers do have a choice on where to spend their money and most would drive to a competing shopping center rather than subject themselves to loiterers.

As a business owner, you should be aware that individuals who are not in the process of conducting business with you or another business in your shopping center can be considered trespassing and in violation of §6-403 of the Criminal Law Act of the Annotated Code of Maryland. You can ask to have loiterers physically removed by the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD).

If you have problems with loitering on your business property, call the MCPD's non-emergency number: 301-279-8000

If you continue to have problems, inquire with the MCPD about signing an agreement allowing MCPD officers to act as agents to enforce the trespass laws on your behalf. It is a standard, no-cost agreement utilized across Montgomery County by law-abiding businesses and property owners. For more information, contact: 240-773-5000.



Penalties for Employing Illegal Immigrants

As an employer, Federal law requires you to verify the identity and employment eligibility of all new employees (including US citizens) within three days of hire by completing Form I-9. Employers who fail to properly complete, retain, and/or present Forms I-9 for inspection as required by law may be subject to a civil penalty from \$110 - \$1,100 per employee.

Both Form I-9 and the Employer Handbook are available as downloadable PDFs at www.uscis.gov

Because it may be difficult for you to recognize forged identification documents, you might want to use the free E-Verify System, an Internet based system operated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in partnership with the Social Security Administration (SSA) that allows you to electronically verify the employment eligibility of your newly hired employees. For more information, go to www.uscis.gov

If you knowingly employ an illegal alien, **you can be fined up to \$2,200** per unauthorized alien for your first offense. Fines increase for second and third offenses, and can include jail time. These penalties also cover your use of contract personnel known by you to be unauthorized to work in the United States.

In addition to these penalties, competitors who can show you gained an unfair business advantage by hiring illegal aliens can sue you for damages.

Important Note: The temporary worker centers operated by Montgomery County and *CASA de Maryland* in Rockville, Silver Spring and Wheaton do **not** check workers' eligibility to work in the U.S. before referring them to you! Therefore, the responsibility of ensuring your new hire's legal status still remains with you!

For a safer source of local temporary workers, go to the federally-funded **MontgomeryWorks!** One-Stop career centers in Gaithersburg or Wheaton: www.montgomeryworks.org

Or try a private temp agency that will assure you in writing that it screens individuals for legal work status.

Handling Unfair Competition

Unscrupulous businesses that hire illegal aliens can put law-abiding businesses like you at a competitive disadvantage in today's difficult economy. But there are ways **you can fight back!**

If you suspect that a competitor is knowingly hiring illegal aliens, call the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) tipline: 1-866-347-2423.

If you suspect a competitor is paying employees "under the table," **call the IRS** tipline: 1-800-829-0433.

Also, call Maryland's Tax Compliance Office: 410-767-1322.

If you suspect a competitor is operating without a Maryland business license, call the Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation: 410-230-6220.

If you observe a competitor allowing unsafe working conditions, call Maryland Occupational Health & Safety: 410-767-7233.

If you suspect a competitor is not paying the minimum wage or overtime, call the US Department of Labor: 1-866-4-US-WAGE.

If you can prove that you have lost revenue, contracts or profits because your competitors use illegal workers to unfairly cut their costs, you may be able to sue those competitors under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). **If you win, you could get triple damages.** For more information, download this PDF and give it to your lawyer: www.cis.org/node/225.

Or, contact the Immigration Reform Legal Institute to see if you qualify for free or low-cost legal assistance: www.irli.org

