



NEW RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Are your Children Safe? Nearly Half of Youth in Violation of Employment Compliance

Richmond, Va. –The U.S. Department of Labor questioned the compliance of major youth employment industries in 2000 and the findings are in, nearly half of 14 and 15-year-olds employed were in violation of the youth employment requirements.

The U.S. Department of Labor began a study to determine what level of compliance fast food, full service restaurants and supermarkets industries were in regards to youth employment. Sample sizes of 68 firms were randomly selected from Dun & Bradstreet data for each industry. Another 40 firms were randomly selected from each industry that were investigated and found to have youth employment violations during the past five-year period.

Over half of the violations made were from Child Labor Regulations No. 3. This regulates the times of day and the number of hours that may be worked by a 14 and 15-year-old during school and non-school weeks. 87 percent of these violations were from youth working more than an hour past the time standard and 55 percent worked more than two hours past the standard.

The Wage and Hour Division also found full service restaurants were the least compliant industry of those surveyed. Only 78 percent of full service restaurants were in youth employment compliance. In addition, 47 percent of 14 and 15-year-olds employed were in violation of youth employment requirements.

In the supermarket industry, 98 percent of employed minors in compliance, and in the fast food industry 95 percent were in compliance. Also, all three industries were mostly compliant in regards to the minimum wage and overtime provisions.

While researching, the Wage and Hour investigators reviewed records, met with and interviewed employers and employees. Some findings may be concerning but the Department of Labor will determine a course of action that involves all parties and will increase the compliance in all industries. For additional information on this survey, visit our Wage and Hour Division Website: <http://www.wagehour.dol.gov> and/or call 1-866-4USWAGE (1-866-487-9243).

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