



CITATION: ASSESSMENT OF FINE AND ORDER OF ABATEMENT

To: Marlene Chao, Owner
 Ramé Academy
 971 N. Main Street, Suite 9B
 Salinas, CA, 93906

INSTITUTION CODE: Unapproved
CITATION NUMBER: 1920096
CITATION ISSUANCE/SERVICE DATE: September 27, 2019
DUE DATE: October 27, 2019
FINE AMOUNT: \$ 50,000.00
ORDER OF ABATEMENT INCLUDED: Yes

Christina Villanueva issues this Citation: Assessment of Fine and Order of Abatement (Citation) in her official capacity as Discipline Manager for the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (Bureau) of the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

CITATION

A Citation is hereby issued to Marlene Chao, Owner of Ramé Academy (Institution) located at 971 N. Main Street, Suite 9B, Salinas, CA, 93906 pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.9 and 149; California Education Code (CEC) section 94944; and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5, CCR) section 75020 for the violation(s) described below.

BACKGROUND

On January 8, 2019, the Bureau received a complaint alleging the Institution was operating and offering educational programs to the public without Bureau approval. Through the course of the investigation the allegation was substantiated that the Institution is operating without Bureau approval or a valid exemption.

VIOLATION(S)

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| | Below you will find the California Education Code (CEC) and/or Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations (5, CCR code) section(s) of law you are charged with violating. |
| 1. | <p><u>Violation:</u> CEC Section 94886. Approval to Operate Required <i>“Except as exempted in Article 4 (commencing with Section 94874) or in compliance with the transition provisions in Article 2 (commencing with Section 94802), a person shall not open, conduct, or do business as a private postsecondary educational institution in this state without obtaining an approval to operate under this chapter.”</i> CEC Section 94817.5. Approved to Operate or Approved</p> |

“Approved to operate” or “approved” means that an institution has received authorization pursuant to this chapter to offer to the public and to provide postsecondary educational programs.”

CEC Section 94868. To Offer to the Public

“To offer to the public” means to advertise, publicize, solicit, or recruit.”

CEC Section 94869. To Operate

“To operate” means to establish, keep, or maintain any facility or location in this state where, or from which, or through which, postsecondary educational programs are provided.”

On February 6, 2019, Bureau staff reviewed the Institution’s website, www.rameacademy.com and found the Institution’s offers two (2) apprenticeship programs: one (1) for Barbering, and one (1) for Cosmetology. The Institution’s website did not include any information regarding pricing for the programs.

Bureau staff spoke with the Owner of the Institution, who confirmed the Institution’s apprenticeship programs were sponsored by Gran Phinale Barbering and Cosmetology Apprenticeship Academy (GPBCAA). The Owner agreed to send a copy of the agreement with GPBCAA to the Bureau, along with additional information about the program.

On February 6, 2019, February 12, 2019, and February 20, 2019, Bureau staff emailed the Institution’s Owner requesting the information discussed during the February 6, 2019 conversation.

On March 4, 2019, Bureau staff contacted the owner of GPBCAA who confirmed his institution was sponsoring the apprenticeship programs offered by the Institution and sent a letter to the Bureau to confirm the sponsorship.

On March 21, 2019, Bureau staff spoke with the Owner of the Institution who confirmed the charges for the apprenticeship programs were \$3500.00 each. The amount exceeds the \$2,500.00 maximum charge allowed without requiring Bureau approval.

The Owner of the Institution emailed the Bureau confirming the price for the educational programs offered and supplied a sample enrollment agreement that clearly identifies the charge of \$3,500.00 per educational program.

As of September 27, 2019, the Bureau has not received an Application for an Approval to Operate or been verified as exempt.

Order of Abatement:

The Bureau orders that the Institution cease to operate as a private postsecondary educational institution, unless the Institution qualifies for an exemption under CEC section 94874. The Institution must discontinue recruiting or enrolling students and cease all instructional services and advertising in any form or type of media, including www.rameacademy.com, and any other websites not identified here that are associated with the Institution, until such time as an approval to operate is obtained from the Bureau. The Institution must disconnect all telephone service numbers including, but not limited to, (831) 760-2719, that are associated with the Institution until such time as an approval to operate is obtained from the Bureau. To comply with the Order of Abatement the Institution must submit a

school closure plan to the Bureau pursuant to California Education Code section 94926. The Institution must provide a roster of each student currently enrolled at the Institution. The roster must include the names of the students, their contact information (including phone number, email address, and physical address), the programs in which they are enrolled, the amount paid for the programs.

Assessment of Fine

The fine for this violation is \$50,000.00

TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE FINE DUE: \$50,000.00

ASSESSMENT OF A FINE

In accordance with CEC section 94944; and 5, CCR section 75020(b), the Bureau hereby orders this assessment of a fine in the amount of **\$50,000.00** for the violations described above. **Payment must be made, to the Bureau, within 30 days from the date of service of the Citation.**

COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER OF ABATEMENT

In accordance with the provisions of 5, CCR section 75020 (b) the Bureau hereby issues the order(s) of abatement described above. In accordance with Business and Professions Code Section 149, the Bureau may disconnect any telephone service numbers used by an unapproved Institution. **Evidence of compliance with the order(s) of abatement must be submitted, to the Bureau, within 30 days from the date of service of the Citation.**

APPEAL OF CITATION

You have the right to contest this Citation through an informal conference with the Bureau; and/or through an administrative hearing in accordance with Chapter 5 (Commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

If you wish to contest this Citation, you must submit the 'Notice of Appeal of Citation – Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing' form (enclosed) within 30 days from the date of service of the Citation. *If you do not request an informal conference and/or an administrative hearing within 30 days from the service of the Citation, you will not be able to request one at a later time.*

Unless a written request for an informal conference and/or an administrative hearing is signed by you and delivered to the Bureau by **October 27, 2019**, you will be deemed to have waived or forfeited your right to appeal this matter.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF CITATION

If you do not request an informal conference and/or an administrative hearing, this Citation shall become effective on **September 27, 2019**. Payment of the administrative fine and evidence of compliance with the order(s) of abatement shall be due by **October 27, 2019**. Your payment of the administrative fine shall not constitute an admission of the violation(s) charged.

If a hearing is requested, you will not be required to comply with this Citation until 30 days after a final order is entered against you.

Payment of the administrative fine and/or written request for appeal must be mailed to:

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Marlene Chao, Owner of Ramé Academy
Institution Code: Unapproved

Gabriella Perez, Discipline Citation Program
Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95833

Failure for an applicant or institution to abate the violation(s) listed above or to pay the administrative fine within the time allowed may result in denial of an application for an approval or renewal to operate; disciplinary action, and/or collection action. The Bureau will promptly take all appropriate action to enforce this Citation and recover the civil penalties prescribed therein or found to be due after a hearing.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this Citation, or desire further information, please contact Gabriella Perez, Citation Analyst, at (916) 621-2593 or Gabriella.Perez@dca.ca.gov.

Signature on file

Christina Villanueva
Discipline Manager

Date

Enclosures

- Applicable Laws Violated
- Statement of Rights: Appeal Process Information Sheet
- Notice of Appeal of Citation: Request for Informal Conference and/or Administrative Hearing
- Payment of Fine – Waiver of Appeal
- Declaration of Service by Certified and First-Class Mail