

Hi there! My name is Ash Bumpus-Martin. I work as a hairdresser and I am an independent contractor. Most hairdressers in this city are actually independent contractors and we function as our own business. We pay rent for space to the owners of the salons we work at, who in turn pay rent to the owners of the buildings we occupy. I am responsible for ALL of my business. This includes online booking system, tools, websites, product, and so much more.

As hairdressers we are licensed through OHL. We are required to adhere to pretty strict standards of sanitation and cleanliness. We have been going above and beyond standard protocol in the past weeks but many of us have now made the decision to close our books until further notice due to the fact that it no longer seems safe or responsible to stay open until there is more information.

I am a renter of my home as well. A renter in a very disproportionate rental market. I am also a Portland native. I live paycheck to paycheck for the most part and still get to enjoy small pleasures but I do not have a safety net or a family that can provide that for me. Closing my books and no longer taking clients puts me in a very risky situation, and yet I still know it is the right move to make in order to keep the community safe.

I am contacting you because this information was passed on to me from a friend. In order to survive this pandemic I need assistance. And as an independent contractor I have very few options for assistance through the state. PLEASE HELP.

Ash Bumpus-Martin