

60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d) (PROPOSITION 65)

Date: November 21, 2023
To: Russell Wiest, President, The Beistle Company;
California Attorney General’s Office;
District Attorney’s Office for 58 Counties; and
City Attorneys for San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, Sacramento & Los Angeles
From: Keep America Safe and Beautiful

I. INTRODUCTION

Keep America Safe and Beautiful is a California nonprofit corporation acting in the public interest pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d). Keep America Safe and Beautiful seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in products sold in California and, if possible, to improve human health by eliminating hazardous substances contained in such items, promoting corporate responsibility.

This 60-Day Notice of Violation (“**Notice**”) is being provided to the alleged violator, The Beistle Company (“**Notice Recipient**”), as well as the California Attorney General’s Office, the District Attorney’s Offices for 58 Counties, and City Attorneys for San Francisco, San Diego, San Jose, Sacramento and Los Angeles.

Keep America Safe and Beautiful provides this Notice after identifying violations of California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 *et seq.* (“**Proposition 65**”), based on the failure to provide a clear and reasonable health hazard warning in connection with the sale or use of the products, listed below, in the State of California. The Notice Recipient is hereby given notice it violated and continues to violate Proposition 65 with respect to the warning requirement, codified at California’s Health & Safety Code § 25249.6: “No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving a clear and reasonable warning to such individual.” Without proper warnings about the toxic effects of exposures to listed chemicals, citizens in California lack the information necessary to make an informed decision as to whether or how to eliminate or reduce their risk of exposure from the reasonably foreseeable use of products containing listed chemicals.

II. NATURE OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

Product. The specific type or category of products (“**Products**”) that are the subject of this Notice are as follows:

| Exemplar Product | Category/Type | Retailer | Manufacturer/Distributor |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Instant Nerd Kit Stock No. 60738 UPC: 0 34689 60738 0 ASIN: B004X0PTYA | Vinyl/PVC Pouches | Amazon.com | The Beistle Company |

Identified above is a specific example of Products recently purchased and witnessed as being available for sale or use in the State of California, within the *category* of offending products covered by this Notice. The identified retailers, manufacturers and/or distributors of the Products are based on publicly available information.

The Exemplar Product is identified for the Notice Recipient's benefit to assist in its investigation into the alleged violations that are the subject of this Notice. The specific identified Exemplar Product is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all such products potentially in violation of Proposition 65. The Notice Recipient is now obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other products within the category or of the type, identified above, that were manufactured, imported, sold or distributed for sale, or that have otherwise been in the Notice Recipient's custody or control during the relevant period, identified below, to ensure the requisite health hazard warnings are provided to individuals in California prior to purchase.

Listed Chemical. The chemical that is the subject of this Notice is di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (“DEHP”). The State of California listed DEHP as a chemical known to cause cancer on November 1, 1988 and as a chemical known to cause developmental and male reproductive toxicity on October 24, 2003.

Routes of Exposure. The exposures subject to this Notice result from the purchase, acquisition and handling of Products containing DEHP. Exposures occur when individuals, including children and women of childbearing age, handle, touch or otherwise utilize vinyl/PVC pouches containing DEHP in accordance with the Products' reasonably foreseeable and intended uses, resulting in exposures through ingestion and dermal absorption. Individuals ingest DEHP when they touch or handle the Products, transferring the chemical from their fingers or hands to their mouths. Dermal absorption of DEHP occurs when individuals handle, touch, or utilize the Products.

Violations and Time Period of Exposure. Keep America Safe and Beautiful alleges the Notice Recipient knowingly and intentionally exposed, and continues to knowingly and intentionally expose, individuals within the State of California to DEHP, without first giving a health hazard warning regarding the chemical's toxic effects, as required by Proposition 65, by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings to consumers and users that the Products can expose users to DEHP.

Exposures caused by the use of the Products have occurred each day since the Products were introduced into the California marketplace, but, at a minimum, since November 21, 2022, and, potentially, as far back as November 21, 2020. Because the Products lack clear and reasonable warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to DEHP, each Product sold during this period and not accompanied by a warning constitutes a violation by the Notice Recipient and/or other sellers of the Products, whether sold directly through retailers located in, or with locations in, California, via the internet, or through catalog purchases by customers and individuals located in California. Moreover, these exposures are ongoing and will continue either until clear and reasonable warnings are provided to protect consumers and users or until this known toxic chemical is removed from the Products or reduced to allowable levels.

III. RESOLUTION OF NOTICED CLAIMS

Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65, Keep America Safe and Beautiful seeks to pursue a constructive resolution of this matter to quickly rectify ongoing violations of California law. To that end, based on the allegations set forth in this Notice and pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d), Keep America Safe and Beautiful intends to file a private

enforcement action in the public interest sixty (60) days after effective service of this Notice, unless the appropriate public enforcement agencies have commenced and are diligently prosecuting an action to rectify these allegations. If the Notice Recipient seeks to resolve the claims alleged in this Notice without litigation, it may contact Keep America Safe and Beautiful's counsel at the address listed below.

It should be noted neither Keep America Safe and Beautiful or its counsel can: (1) finalize any settlement until after the expiration of the 60-day Notice period; or (2) speak for the California Attorney General or any District or City attorney in receipt of this Notice. Therefore, while reaching an agreement with Keep America Safe and Beautiful will satisfy its claims, the agreement may not satisfy any public prosecutors.

IV. GENERAL INFORMATION AND SUMMARY OF PROPOSITION 65

A copy of a summary of Proposition 65's provisions, prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") is enclosed with the copy of the Notice served on the Notice Recipient for its reference. For further general information concerning Proposition 65, contact OEHHA's Proposition 65 Implementation Office at (916) 445-6900.

V. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Pursuant to Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d) and Cal. Code Regs. tit 11, § 3100, a Certificate of Merit is attached hereto. A copy of the Notice and Certificate of Merit is served on the California Attorney General and marked "Attorney General Copy: Contains Official Information Pursuant to Evidence Code Section 1040" with all supporting documentation, as required by Cal. Code Regs. tit 11, § 3102, attached thereto.

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

Please direct all questions, issues or communications regarding this 60-Day Notice of Violation and its potential resolution to Keep America Safe and Beautiful's counsel at the following address:

Keep America Safe and Beautiful
c/o Kimberly Gates Johnson, Esq.
Seven Hills LLP
4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 1400
San Francisco, California 94111
Telephone: (415) 926-7247
Email: kimberly@sevenhillsllp.com

Represented private enforcer's
contact information:
My Nguyen, Secretary
Keep America Safe and Beautiful
14891 Booney Street
Westminster, California 92683
Telephone: (657) 621-3809

Attachments: Certificate of Merit; Proof of Service; Appendix A: The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary (to Violator only); and Additional Confidential Supporting Information for Certificate of Merit (to AG only.)

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(d)

Re: Keep America Safe and Beautiful's Notice of Proposition 65 Violations

I, Kimberly Gates Johnson, hereby declare and certify:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged the party identified in the notice violated California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
2. I am an attorney for the noticing party.
3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who have reviewed facts, studies or other data regarding the alleged exposure to and the lack of warnings for the listed chemical that is the subject of the notice.
4. Based on the information obtained and on other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiff's case can be established and that the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.
5. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(h)(2), i.e., the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier and (2) the facts, studies or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: November 21, 2023



Kimberly Gates Johnson

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury:

I am over the age of 18 years of age and not a party to this case. Seven Hills LLP’s business address is 4 Embarcadero Center, Suite 1400, San Francisco, CA 94111.

On November 21, 2023, I caused to be served the following:

**60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH
HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d);
APPENDIX A: THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC
ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY; and
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

XXXX by **Certified First Class Mail** through the United States Postal Service by placing true and correct copies of the above documents in a sealed envelope, individually addressed to each alleged violator listed below and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Service Representative:

Russell Wiest, President
The Beistle Company
1 Beistle Plaza
Shippensburg, PA 17257

On November 21, 2023, I caused to be served true and correct copies of the following documents:

**60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH
HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d); and
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

XXXX by **First Class Mail** through the United States Postal Service by placing copies of the above documents in a sealed envelope, addressed to each entity on the attached “Service List” and providing such envelope to a United States Postal Representative, with correct postage.

XXXX via **Electronic Mail**, by sending copies of the above documents, addressed individually, to the Recipient listed on the attached “Electronic Mail Service List”.

On November 21, 2023, I caused to be served true and correct copies of the following documents:

**60-DAY NOTICE OF VIOLATION SENT IN COMPLIANCE WITH
HEALTH & SAFETY CODE § 25249.7(d);
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; and
CERTIFICATE OF MERIT ATTACHMENTS**

XXXX via **Electronic Mail**, by uploading the documents, addressed to California Attorney General at their website address, listed under the “Electronic Upload Service List”.

Executed on the 21st day of November 2023, at Folsom, California.



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SERVICE LIST

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| The Honorable Michael Atwell Alpine County District Attorney P.O. Box 248 Markleeville, CA 96120 | The Honorable Jackie Lacey Los Angeles County District Attorney 211 West Temple Street, Ste 1200 Los Angeles, CA, 90012 | The Honorable Todd Riebe Amador County District Attorney 708 Court Street, #202 Jackson, CA 95642 |
| The Honorable Michael Ramsey Butte County District Attorney 25 County Center Drive, Suite 245 Oroville, CA 95965 | The Honorable Matthew R. Beauchamp Colusa County District Attorney 346 5th Street, Suite 101 Colusa, CA 95932 | Del Norte County District Attorney 450 H street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531 |
| The Honorable Vern Pierson El Dorado County District Attorney 778 Pacific Street Placerville, CA 95667 | The Honorable Gilbert Otero Imperial County District Attorney 940 West Main Street, Suite 102 El Centro, CA 92243 | The Honorable Dwayne Stewart Glenn County District Attorney P.O. Box 430 Willows CA 95988 |
| The Honorable Maggie Fleming Humboldt County District Attorney 825 5 th Street, 4 th Floor Eureka, CA 95501 | The Honorable Donald Anderson Lake County District Attorney 255 N. Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453 | The Honorable Lisa Green Kern County District Attorney 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301 |
| The Honorable Keith Fagundes Kings County District Attorney 1400 West Lacey Blvd. Hanford, CA 93230 | The Honorable Mike Feuer Office of the City Attorney, Los Angeles Kames K. Hahn Hall East 200 North Main Street, 8 th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90012 | The Honorable David Linn Madera County District Attorney 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637 |
| The Honorable Jordan Funk Modoc County District Attorney 204 S. Court Street Room 202 Alturas, CA 96101 | The Honorable Todd Spitzer Orange County District Attorney 300 North Flower Street Santa Ana, CA 92703 | The Honorable C. David Eyster Mendocino County District Attorney P.O. Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 9548 |
| The Honorable Birgit Fladager Stanislaus County District Attorney 832 12th street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95353 | The Honorable Candace Hooper San Benito District Attorney 419 4th Street Hollister, CA 95023 | The Honorable Tim Kendall Mono County District Attorney P.O. Box 2053 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546 |
| The Honorable Stephen Wagstaffe San Mateo County District Attorney 400 County Center, Third Floor Redwood City, CA 94063 | The Honorable Michael Ramos San Bernardino County District Attorney 303 W. Third Street San Bernardino, CA 92415 | The Honorable Stephanie Bridgett Shasta County District Attorney 1355 West Street Redding, CA 96001 |
| The Honorable James Kirk Andrus Siskiyou County District Attorney P.O. Box 986 Redding, CA 96097 | The Honorable Krishna Abrams Solano County District Attorney 675 Texas Street, Suite 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533 | The Honorable Amanda Hopper Sutter County District Attorney 446 Second Street, Suite 102 Yuba City, CA 95991 |
| The Honorable Laura Krieg Tuolumne County District Attorney 423 N. Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370 | The Honorable James Sanchez Office of the City Attorney, Sacramento 915 I Street, 4 th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 | The Honorable Eric Heryford Trinity County District Attorney P.O. Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093 |
| The Honorable Lawrence Allen Sierra County District Attorney 100 Courthouse Square Downieville, CA 95936 | The Honorable Gregg Cohen Tehama County District Attorney P.O. Box 519 Red Bluff, CA 96080 | The Honorable Patrick McGrath Yuba County District Attorney 215 Fifth street, Suite 152 Marysville, CA 95901 |

ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICE LIST

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| The Honorable Nancy O'Malley Alameda County District Attorney 7776 Oakport Street, Suite 650 Oakland, CA 94621 CEPDPProp65@acgiv.org | The Honorable Tori Verber Salzar San Joaquin County District Attorney 222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202 Stockton, CA 95202 DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org | Honorable Anne Marie Schubert Sacramento County District Attorney 901 G Street Sacramento, CA 95814 Prop65@sacda.org |
| The Honorable Allison Haley Napa County District Attorney 1127 First St., Suite C Napa, CA 94559 CEPD@countyofnapa.org | The Honorable Jeffrey S. Rosell Santa Cruz County District Attorney 701 Ocean Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060 Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us | The Honorable Summer Stephan San Diego County District Attorney 300 West Broadway San Diego, CA 92101 SanDiegoDAProp65@sdccda.org |
| The Honorable Jeff W. Reising Yolo County District Attorney 301 Second Street Woodland, CA 95695 cfepd@yolocounty.org | Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator Lassen County 220 S. Lassen Street Susanville, CA 96130 mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us | Mark Ankcorn, Deputy City Attorney City of San Diego 1200 Third Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov |
| Bud Porter Supervising Deputy District Attorney Santa Clara County 70 W Hedding Street San Jose, CA 95110 EPU@da.sccgov.org | Alethea M. Sargent Assistant District Attorney San Francisco District Attorney's Office 350 Rhode Island Street San Francisco, CA 94103 alethea.sargent@sfgov.org | Christopher Dalbey, Deputy District Attorney Santa Barbara County 1112 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 DAProp65@co.santa-barbara.ca.us |
| The Honorable Gregory D. Totten, Ventura County District Attorney 800 S Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009 daspecialops@ventura.org | The Honorable Barbara Yook Calaveras County District Attorney 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249 Prop65Env@co.calaveras.ca.us | Henry Lifton, Deputy City Attorney Office of the City Attorney 1390 Market Street, 7 th Floor San Francisco, CA 94102 Prop65@sfcityatty.org |
| Stacey Grassini Deputy District Attorney Contra Costa County 900 Ward Street Martinez, CA 94553 sgrassini@contracostada.org | Eric J. Dobroth Deputy District Attorney San Luis Obispo County County Govt Center Annex, 4 th Floor San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 edobroth@co.slo.ca.us | Jeannine M. Pacioni Deputy District Attorney Monterey County 1200 Aguajito Road Monterey, CA 93940 Prop65DA@co.monterey.ca.us |
| The Honorable Thomas Hardy Inyo County District Attorney 168 N. Edwards Street Independence, CA 93526 inyoda@inyocounty.us | The Honorable Phillip J. Cline Tulare County District Attorney 221 S Mooney Blvd Visalia, CA 95370 Prop65@co.tulare.ca.us | The Honorable Clifford Newell Nevada County District Attorney 201 Commercial Street Nevada City, CA 95959 DA.Prop65@co.nevada.ca.us |
| The Honorable Paul E. Zellerbach Riverside County District Attorney 3072 Orange Street Riverside, CA 92501 Prop65@rivcoda.org | The Honorable Stephan Passalacqua Sonoma County District Attorney 600 Administration Drive Sonoma, CA 95403 jbarnes@sonoma-county.org | The Honorable David Hollister Plumas County District Attorney 520 Main Street, Room 404 Quincy, CA 95971 davidhollister@countyofplumas.com |
| The Honorable Walter W. Wall Mariposa County District Attorney P.O. Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338 mcda@mariposacounty.org | The Honorable Kimberly Lewis Merced County District Attorney 550 West Main Street Merced, CA 95340 Prop65@countyofmerced.com | The Honorable Morgan Briggs Gire Placer County District Attorney 10810 Justice Center Drive Roseville, CA 95678 prop65@placer.ca.gov |
| Nora V. Frimann, City Attorney 200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor San Jose, CA 96113 Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov | Lisa A. Smittcamp, District Attorney 2100 Tulare Street Fresno, CA 93721 consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov | The Honorable Edward Berberian Marin County District Attorney 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130 San Rafael, CA 94903 consumer@marincountyda.org |

ELECTRONIC UPLOAD SERVICE LIST

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| Office of the California Attorney General Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting ATTN: Prop 65 Coordinator P.O. Box 70550 Oakland, CA 94612-0550 https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice |
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