

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

June 2, 2022

Via Electronic Mail to [REDACTED]

Angela Ciccolo, Chief Legal Officer & Secretary
Special Olympics International
1133 19th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036-3604

Timothy Shriver, Ph.D.
Special Olympics International
1133 19th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036-3604

Re: Notice of Violations of Section 381.00316, Florida Statutes

Dear Ms. Ciccolo and Mr. Shriver:

This letter is notice that the Special Olympics International (SOI) is assessed a \$27.5 million fine for 5,500 violations of section 381.00316(1), Florida Statutes, after the Department of Health (Department) made repeated attempts to avoid imposing fines against this charitable organization to ensure the 2022 USA Special Olympics could be held in Florida without requiring proof of vaccination from delegates; the Department found that SOI required proof certifying COVID-19 vaccination from 5,500 individuals to gain access to, entry upon, and/or services from the 2022 USA Special Olympics Games, in violation of Florida law.

SOI was unable to bring the event into compliance for the benefit of their delegates, and reinstate all who were denied access based on proof of vaccination. Section 381.00316(1), Florida Statutes, prohibits a business entity, *which includes a charitable organization*, from requiring any patron or customer to provide documentation certifying COVID-19 vaccination or post-infection recovery to gain access to, entry upon, or service from the business entity and pursuant to Rule 64-8.001, *Florida Administrative Code*, the Department is authorized to impose a fine of \$5,000 per each individual and separate violation of section 381.00316, Florida Statutes.

The Department finds that SOI violated section 381.00316(1), Florida Statutes, by requiring proof certifying COVID-19 vaccination or post-infection recovery from 5,500 individuals in order for those individuals to register to attend and/or participate, or to attend and/or participate, in the 2022 USA Special Olympics Games to be held in Orlando, Florida from June 5 to June 12, 2022, in violation of Florida law.

Payment must be made within 30 days of entry of the final order in this matter. Payment must be paid by certified check or money order payable to the Department of Health and mailed to: