

Smoke-free Implementation Toolkit

Brochure (Template)

Smoke-free [STATE/CITY]

Preparing for the [STATE/CITY] [Smoke-free Law/Ordinance]

(IN USING THIS TEMPLATE, MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF THE DETAILS, WHICH ARE TYPICAL OF CURRENT SMOKE-FREE LAWS, MATCH YOUR OWN LAW)

Effective [DATE], the amended [STATE/CITY] [Clean Indoor Air Act/Smoke-free Ordinance] prohibits smoking in virtually all workplaces, including restaurants and bars. The changes in the law reflect [STATE/CITY]'s commitment to ensuring that workers and the public are protected from secondhand smoke.

What is secondhand smoke?

In issuing a groundbreaking report on secondhand smoke in June 2006, Former U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona stated, "The debate is over. The science is clear: Secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance, but a serious health hazard that causes premature death and disease in children and nonsmoking adults." Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, including at least 69 carcinogens. The Surgeon General found that secondhand smoke is a proven cause of lung cancer, heart disease, serious respiratory illnesses such as bronchitis and asthma, low birth weight and sudden infant death syndrome. The Surgeon General also found that secondhand smoke is responsible for tens of thousands of deaths in the United States each year. There is no safe level of exposure, and only smoke-free laws provide effective protection from secondhand smoke.

Where is smoking prohibited?

The new law states that smoking shall not be permitted and that no person shall smoke in the following areas [CHECK LIST TO ENSURE IT MATCHES YOUR OWN LAW]:

- Places of employment
- Restaurants
- Bars
- Public transportation, including ticketing, boarding and waiting areas; buses, vans, taxicabs and limousines
- All places of employment where services are offered for children

- Within [X] feet of an entrance, exit, window, or ventilation intake
- All schools, public and private colleges, universities and other educational and vocational institutions, including school grounds
- Hospitals
- Commercial spaces used for any trade, profession, vocation or charitable activity
- Indoor sports arenas
- Bingo facilities

Where is smoking allowed?

Smoking is permitted in the following areas [CHECK LIST TO ENSURE IT MATCHES YOUR OWN LAW]:

- Private homes (when not used as day care facilities) and automobiles
- Retail tobacco businesses (only when the primary activity is the retail sale of tobacco products and accessories, and the sale of other products is merely incidental)
- Up to 25 percent of seating in outdoor areas of restaurants with no roof or ceiling enclosure, if so designated by the owner

Should signs be posted?

Yes. "No Smoking" or "Smoking" signs, or signs with the international no smoking symbol, must be prominently posted and properly maintained where smoking is prohibited or permitted. [LINK]

How will the act be enforced?

The owner, manager or operator of a restaurant, bar or other business covered by this law must make a reasonable effort to prevent smoking.

How can I file a complaint?

Employees and the public may report, confidentially, violations of the smoke-free law to the [HEALTH DEPARTMENT, or other enforcement agency]. You can also find the telephone number in the government section of your telephone book. For more information on complaints and enforcement, go to [WEBSITE].

Where can I find more information?

For more information about the new smoke-free law, call [hotline PHONE #] or visit [WEBSITE].

Where can I get information on quitting?

If you smoke and want to quit, call the [Quitline PHONE #] for free information and assistance, or visit [WEBSITE].