



What you need to know about...

Smoke Free Legislation in Illinois

Smoke Free Illinois

Effective January 1, 2008 the law prohibits smoking in public places, places of employment and governmental vehicles. The act requires all public places and work places to be smoke free, including 15 feet from entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes of smoke free locations.

The Smoke Free Illinois Act repeals the current Illinois Clean Indoor Air Act and will create a floor for smoke free laws, allowing local communities to enact or retain stronger laws, but not allow weaker laws.

Public health professionals have estimated that this law will save more lives than seatbelts. It will protect people from the dangers of secondhand smoke (including lung cancers, stroke, heart disease, sudden infant death and smoke-induced asthma attacks) which makes it the third leading cause of preventable death in America.



What does the law cover?

The smoke-free law includes, but is not limited to: restaurants, bars, taverns, gaming facilities including riverboat casinos, private clubs, retail stores, offices, indoor theaters, libraries, museums, bowling alleys, skating rinks, convention facilities and schools.

Where is smoking allowed?

The law does not cover private residences, certain rooms in nursing homes, no more than 25% of hotel sleeping rooms and retail tobacco stores with derive 80% of their revenue from tobacco products. This exemption does not apply to an establishment with any type of liquor or retail food service.

How will this law be enforced?

No smoking signs must be posted and ashtrays removed. Fines range from \$250 to \$2,500 for building owners or operators depending on whether it is a first, second or third violation. Individual fines range from \$100 to \$200 for a person caught smoking in a non-smoking location.

The law is enforced by state and local health departments and local law enforcement. To report violations contact local health departments: in Chicago call non-emergency 311, in suburban Cook County call (708) 492-2000, outside of Cook County call (866) 973-4646.

For more information about this law please contact Matt Maloney at Respiratory Health Association at (312) 243-2000.