



Smoke-Free



"Going smoke-free is one of the best decisions we have made! Our customers and employees have a healthier workplace, and business has definitely increased. This has been a win-win for all."

-Michael Novak, owner Pines Tavern, Pittsburgh, a smoke-free restaurant and bar since 2005.

For more information on the Clean Indoor Air Act, go to www.PACTonline.org or call the Pennsylvania Clean Indoor Air Helpline at 1-877-835-9535

To support customers and employees who want to quit smoking:

Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669)

Call the American Lung Association at 1-800-LUNG-USA (1-800-586-4872)

Visit the Department of Health cessation website at www.determinedtoquit.com

Visit the Department of Health website at www.health.state.pa.us for information on worksite programs and other stop smoking programs in your area



There's a New Air about Pennsylvania

Smoke-Free:

A Guide for Business Owners and Managers



There's a new Air about Pennsylvania

Smoke-Free is now the Law!

Effective September 11, 2008 public places and workplaces in Pennsylvania are smoke-free.

Establishing smoke-free indoor work and public places.

Effective September 11, 2008 the Pennsylvania Clean Indoor Air Act requires that public places and workplaces must be smoke-free. This includes, but is not limited to, offices, schools, educational institutions, commercial establishments, enclosed shopping centers, retail stores, theaters, museums, libraries, enclosed or partially enclosed sports arenas, convention facilities, hospitals, health care facilities, health care clinics, no less than 75 percent of hotel or motel sleeping quarters, mass transportation (train, subway, bus, plane, taxicab, limousine), mass transportation stations (train, subway, bus)

Who benefits from the Clean Indoor Air Act?

Everyone benefits from a smoke-free environment - employees, customers, visitors and proprietors. According to a study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association, female employees in the service industry have a higher rate of lung and heart disease from exposure to secondhand smoke than any other traditionally female work group. One shift in a smoky bar is equivalent to smoking 16 cigarettes! Dealing with tobacco-related concerns in the workplace leads to improved employee moral and reduced healthcare and maintenance costs.

What is secondhand smoke?

Secondhand smoke is a mixture of the smoke exhaled by a smoker and the smoke that comes from the burning end of a cigarette, cigar or pipe. It is estimated that only 15 percent of cigarette smoke is inhaled by the smoker. The remaining 85 percent lingers in the air for others to breathe. Six people a day die from diseases related to secondhand smoke which contains a dangerous mixture of more than 4,000 chemicals, 69 of them cancer-causing. June 2006 the U.S. Surgeon General declared all level of secondhand smoke unsafe.

As a business owner, operator or manager, what do I have to do to comply with the new law?

Business owners, operators and managers are expected to know the law and to inform employees and customers about it. The Clean Indoor Air Act states that no person shall carry a lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe or other lighted smoking devices into a public place or workplace. "No Smoking" signs must be posted prominently where smoking is not permitted.

The Department of Health recommends that you remove all ashtrays and other receptacles used to extinguish cigarettes or other smoking items. The Clean Indoor Air Act Compliance Toolkit has been developed by PACT (Pennsylvania Alliance to Control Tobacco). The toolkit provides additional guidance and resources to help you comply with the Clean Indoor Air Act and are available on the PACT website at www.PACTonline.org or may be requested through the Pennsylvania Clean Indoor Air Helpline at 1-877-835-9535

What signs do I need, and where can I get them?

The Clean Indoor Air Act requires that "No Smoking" signs or the international "No- Smoking" symbol which consists of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette in a circle with a bar across it must be prominently posted and properly maintained at all entrances. "No Smoking" signs have been designed uniquely for Pennsylvania, and are included in the Clean Indoor Air Act Compliance Toolkit. Additional signs are available from the PACT website: www.PACTonline.org (Click on "Implementation Button.")

How will the Clean Indoor Air Law affect my business?

Sales tax studies demonstrate that business is not hurt and frequently improves when hospitality venues, such as restaurants and bars, go smoke-free. Studies of smoke-free workplaces have shown an increase in profitability due to increased productivity!



How do I deal with customers who want to smoke?

Politely ask customers to put out their cigarette or leave the premises. For example, "I'm sorry, you will need to put out your cigarette or smoke outside." When they comply, thank them for cooperating.

How do I deal with customers who refuse to comply?

If they do not comply, draw their attention to the "No Smoking" signs and ask them to stop. Tell them it is against the law for you to allow them to smoke, and that they are committing an offense on your premises. If your customer continues to smoke, follow your workplace policy for removing a person from the premises. Only call the police when customers refuse to comply, refuse to leave the premises at your request, or become physically aggressive.

What support is available for my employees who smoke?

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has a wide range of easily accessible stop-smoking (cessation) services and worksite programs, including the Pennsylvania Free Quitline 1-800 QUIT NOW (1-800 784-8669) and the Pennsylvania cessation website, www.determinedtoquit.com. Information on programs available throughout the Commonwealth are listed on the Department's website www.health.state.pa.us

How will the Clean Indoor Air Law be enforced?

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has a dedicated Helpline to report violations 1-877-835-9535. Violations can also be reported on the Department of Health website: www.health.state.pa.us or by mail.

What are the penalties for non-compliance?

Business owners, operators, or managers as well as individuals violating the law will be issued penalties from \$250 - \$1000.