



As of December 8, 2005, the Clean Indoor Air Act prohibits smoking in all indoor public spaces and workplaces throughout the state.

How the Smoke-Free Law Will Be Enforced

Who will enforce the law?

The Spokane Regional Health District is responsible for enforcing the law with respect to businesses. Local law enforcement agencies are responsible for enforcing the law with respect to individuals.

How will the law be enforced?

Health District staff will cite violations observed during inspections and respond to reports of violations from the public.

What is considered a violation of the law? Violations of the law include:

- Smoking or evidence of smoking inside a public space or workplace, including the presence of smoke, cigarette ashes or cigarette butts;
- Lack of "No Smoking" signs that are clearly visible at each entrance and at prominent locations within the building (retail only).
- No action taken to prevent smoking within 25 feet of entrances, exits and windows and ventilation intakes.

Are vending machines in bars and restaurants illegal since smoking is prohibited?

No. Cigarettes may be purchased from a vending machine but cannot be smoked in the bar or restaurant.

How do I deal with people who want to smoke?

Tell the individual that the law prohibits smoking indoors and direct him/her to an outside area that is at least twenty-five (25) feet from away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or windows that open.

What is the 25-foot rule and how do I comply?

The intent of the 25-foot rule is to prevent smoke from entering a building. Smoking is prohibited in outside areas that are less than twenty-five (25) feet away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or windows that open. When these outside areas are owned by or within the control of a business, such as a deck, the person in charge is responsible for ensuring compliance with the law.

What should I do if someone starts smoking in an area where smoking is prohibited?

The owner, operator, manager, or person in charge should make a reasonable effort to obtain compliance. Tell the individual that the law prohibits smoking inside your business and ask them to relocate to an outside area that is at least twenty-five (25) feet from away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes, or windows that open.

What do I do about a customer who refuses to comply with the law?

It is the responsibility of the business to inform the individual that he/she is in violation of the law. If a customer refuses to stop smoking or relocate to an outside area that is at least twenty-five (25) feet from away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or windows that open, contact your local law enforcement agency.

What are the penalties to a business?

A business can be cited every day that a violation occurs. The Health Department will assess a fee to re-inspect businesses found to be in violation of the law. Repeated violations will result in referral to the superior court for further legal action. The courts may impose additional \$100 fines for each day the business is found to be out of compliance and may take other actions to assure the business obeys the law.

Additional Questions? Call 232-1707

or, check www.srhd.org/health/tobacco regularly for updates, information, forms, and other helpful documents related to the New Clean Indoor Air Act. This summary is not intended to be comprehensive or to provide an authoritative legal interpretation.

For more information please refer to the actual text of the law - download a copy at: www.srhd.org/health/tobacco



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