

# The Maryland State Clean Indoor Air Act: A Guide for the Public



## WHAT IS THE CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT OF 2007?

The Clean Indoor Air Act of 2007 prohibits smoking in virtually all indoor workplaces in order to “preserve and improve the health, comfort, and environment of the people of Maryland by limiting exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.” The law provides for fair and consistent statewide protection from exposure to secondhand smoke in indoor settings. People in Maryland will now have clean, smoke-free air while working, dining, shopping, or relaxing throughout the state.

## WHAT IS COVERED UNDER THE ACT?

As of *February 1, 2008*, there will be smoke-free air in almost all indoor places open to the public, including bars and restaurants. The Act prohibits smoking in the following facilities:

- Indoor areas open to the public
- Indoor meeting places open to the public
- Indoor places of employment
- Mass transit vehicles
- Private homes or residences being used by a licensed day care or child care provider
- Private vehicles used for the public transportation of children or as part of health care or day care transportation
- Clubs with alcohol licenses (under Article 2B, §1-102(a)(4), Annotated Code of Maryland)

## WHAT IS REQUIRED OF BUSINESSES?

- All of the businesses listed above must prohibit smoking
- Signs stating that smoking is prohibited must be posted in the following facilities:
  - ✓ Retail stores
  - ✓ Theaters
  - ✓ Concert halls
  - ✓ Athletic facilities
  - ✓ Financial service institutions
  - ✓ Government buildings
  - ✓ Educational institutions
  - ✓ Museums
  - ✓ Libraries
  - ✓ Hotels and motels
  - ✓ Clubs as defined in Article 2B §1-102(a)(4), Annotated Code of Maryland

Signs must be conspicuously posted at each entrance and in prominent locations inside the establishment.

*Some jurisdictions may have local ordinances with additional requirements. Check with your local health department or the Clean Indoor Air Act Help Line, 1-866-703-3266 for further information.*

## **ARE THERE PUBLIC PLACES WHERE SMOKING IS STILL ALLOWED?**

Smoking *may* still be permitted in tobacco shops, outdoor areas of bars and restaurants, and up to 25 percent of a hotel's or motel's guest rooms. In addition, the Act does not ban smoking outdoors. However, some jurisdictions may have stricter ordinances and some specific businesses may be exempt or have a temporary waiver from some requirements of the Act. Look for signs in each establishment for guidance.

## **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO ELIMINATE EXPOSURE TO SECONDHAND SMOKE?**

Secondhand smoke comes from the burning end of a cigarette, cigar, or pipe – as well as the smoke exhaled by smokers. Former U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona reported that secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, including at least 69 that are cancer-causing. Up to 62,000 nonsmokers in the U.S. die each year from secondhand smoke-related causes. It is a serious health hazard that is a proven cause of disease including lung cancer, heart disease, bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma, and sudden infant death syndrome.

## **HOW DO I FILE A COMPLAINT IF I SEE SMOKING IN A BUSINESS?**

Complaints can be made in person or over the phone to your local health department. If you have a question about how or where to make a complaint, call the Clean Indoor Air Act Help Line, **1-866-703-3266**.

## **HOW IS THE CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT ENFORCED?**

Business owners are required to comply with the law and local health departments will enforce it. Please obey posted signs identifying areas where smoking is not allowed. For further information or to file a complaint regarding a business you think may be in violation of the law, please notify your local health department, call the Clean Indoor Air Act Help Line at **1-866-703-3266**.

## **NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO QUIT!**

When you're ready to quit, visit your local health department, call the *Maryland Tobacco Quitline* at **1-800-QUIT NOW**, or visit [www.SmokingStopsHere.com](http://www.SmokingStopsHere.com). These are absolutely free services provided by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and local health departments that provide information on quitting and tools to help you quit for good.

