



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Preparing for Smoke-Free Illinois

The Smoke-Free Illinois Act goes into effect January 1, 2008. The Act protects employees and the public from second hand smoke.

The Act prohibits smoking:

- in indoor public places, places of employment, and governmental vehicles
- within 15 feet of any entrances, exits and windows that open and ventilation intakes to a smoke-free area

Public places where smoking is prohibited include, but are not limited to restaurants, bars/taverns, bowling alleys, private clubs, gaming facilities, dormitories, public conveyances, sports arenas, retail and commercial establishments, convention facilities, offices, hospitals, vehicles and buildings owned or leased by the state, and not less than 75% of hotel/motel sleeping rooms.

The Act exemptions are:

- Private residences except when home is used for child care, adult care, healthcare facility or any other home-based business that is open to the public
- 25% of the hotel/motel rooms may be permanently designated smoking rooms
- Retail tobacco stores: establishments that derives more than 80% of its gross revenue from tobacco sales
- Private and semi-private rooms in nursing homes and long-term care facilities

Other requirements are:

- *No Smoking* signs or the international *No Smoking* symbol shall be clearly and conspicuously posted at every entrance in each public place and places of employment where smoking is prohibited.

- Signs can be no smaller than 5 inches by 7 inches.
- Signs must contain the toll-free complaint line number, 1-866-973-4646 and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) website, www.smoke-free.illinois.gov.
- Signs may be downloaded from the IDPH website.
- Signs may be created by the business, as long as they comply with the requirements of the Smoke-Free Illinois Act.
- Remove all ashtrays from all areas where smoking is prohibited

Complaints may be reported by one of the following:

- Phoning the toll-free Complaint Line at 1-866-973-4646; or
- On-line at the Smoke-Free Illinois website, www.smoke-free.illinois.gov

For detailed information on the Smoke Free Illinois Act, please refer to the IDPH website, www.smoke-free.illinois.gov. The website will be available by January 1, 2008.

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