

Smoke-Free Illinois Act

Below is an outline of the Smoke-Free Illinois Act, which applies to all public places and places of employment in the state of Illinois, with limited exceptions noted below.

The Smoke-Free Illinois Act has been in effect since January 1, 2008.

The Act protects employees and the public from secondhand smoke.

The following areas must be smoke-free:

- All indoor public places (includes but not limited to): restaurants, bars/taverns, bowling alleys, private clubs, dormitories, public conveyances, sports arenas, retail and commercial establishments, convention facilities, vehicles and buildings owned or leased by the state, offices and hospitals.
- Places of employment: any area under the control of a public or private employer that employees are required to enter, leave or pass through during the course of employment. Includes but is not limited to: offices, restrooms, conference/classrooms, break rooms, cafeterias, lobbies.
- Outdoor areas 15 feet from all doors, windows that open and vents.

Limited exemptions include:

- Up to 25% of hotel/motel rooms, provided smoke does not infiltrate smoke-free areas. A smoking room may not be changed back to a smoke-free room.
- Tobacco retailers that file annually with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Stores must derive 80% of sales from tobacco-related products, may not have any kind of food, liquor, or restaurant license, and must be in a freestanding structure, unless in continuous operation under the same ownership from before January 1, 2008.
- Common smoking rooms in nursing homes which are entered only by residents who are smokers who have requested in writing to have access. Smoke may not infiltrate other areas.

According to additional requirements set forth by the Act:

- No smoking signs must be posted at every entrance.
- Ashtrays must be removed from all areas where smoking is prohibited.

For more information:

IDPH has established a toll-free number and a website to register complaints:
1-866-973-4646, www.smoke-free.illinois.gov

For links to the full text of the Act, and for additional information about the law visit:
<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2893>

