

# THE GRAFTON-TAYLOR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CLEAN INDOOR AIR REGULATION

## TITLE

This Regulation shall be known as the Taylor County Clean Indoor Air Regulation.

## FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

The United States Surgeon General and other authoritative public health authorities have determined that involuntary inhalation of tobacco smoke (a) is a cause of numerous diseases in healthy non-smokers; (b) is a major contributor to indoor air pollution; (c) places children, unborn children of pregnant women, elderly people, and individuals with cardiovascular and/or respiratory disease at special risk; (d) is a trigger for acute episodes of respiratory distress and myocardial infarction; (e) increases the lifetime exposure to carcinogenic tobacco smoke of both smokers and non-smokers; (f) burdens the health care system by increasing the number and frequency of required hospital admissions and emergency visits thereby increasing the public and private expenditures required for the treatment; (g) reduces the life expectancy of persons consistently exposed to secondary smoke and (h) causes substantial losses in productivity through smoking related absences from work and school.

Excerpted from the December 2, 2003 WV Supreme Court Decision #31120.... "In attempting to minimize the effects of tobacco smoke on the general public in enclosed public places, the regulations of [boards of health] address a serious health issue which the Legislature has recognized. Based upon the foregoing observations, we find that clean indoor air regulations of local boards of health that place restrictions on smoking in enclosed public places (1) are consistent with the findings of the Legislature "that smoking may cause lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and other serious health problems," (2) advance the legislatively prescribed public policy "to provide the state with a citizenry free from the use of tobacco," and (3) fall within the bounds of authority granted by the Legislature to such boards....."

Accordingly, the purposes of this Regulation are (1) to protect the public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking in enclosed public places (2) to prohibit smoking in places of employment (3) to recognize that where the need to breathe smoke-free air conflicts with the desire to smoke, the need to breathe smoke-free air shall have priority, (4) to facilitate smoking cessation by active smokers and (5) to discourage non-smokers from taking up the habit and thereby developing a nicotine addiction.

## DEFINITIONS

The following words and phrases, whenever used in this Regulation, shall be construed as defined in this section:

- a. "Business" means any sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, corporation or other business entity formed for profit-making purposes, including retail establishments where goods or services are sold as well as professional

**Adopted: 5/22/12**

**Effective: 7/22/12**

corporations and other entities where legal, medical, dental, engineering, architectural or other professional services are delivered.

- b. "Employee" means any person employed by an employer for direct or indirect monetary wages or anything of value, or any person who volunteers for a non-profit entity.
- c. "Employer" means any entity or person who employs the paid or volunteer services of one or more persons.
- d. "Enclosed Area" means all space between a floor and ceiling which is enclosed, that is bounded on at least two sides by walls, doorways or windows, whether open or closed. A wall includes any retractable divider, garage door, or other physical barrier, whether temporary or permanent and whether or not containing openings of any kind.
- e. "Place of Employment" means any enclosed 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, including private offices; work areas; restrooms; conference and classrooms; break rooms; cafeterias; and other common areas. A private residence, unless used to provide licensed child care, foster care, adult care, or other similar social service care on the premises, is not a place of employment. Vehicles provided by an employer for use by employees, during the course of employment shall be considered as places of employment for purposes of these regulations.
- f. "Private Club" means an entity falling within the definition of Private Club as set forth in Section 60-7-2 of the West Virginia Code, for purposes of State Control of Alcoholic Liquors.
- g. "Public Place" means any enclosed area to which the public is invited or in which the public is permitted, regardless of whether the building is owned in whole or in part by private persons or governmental entities. A "public place" includes, but is not limited to hospitals, hotel and motels, restaurants, retail stores, offices, commercial establishments, elevators, indoor theaters, public transit, libraries, museums, concert halls, public conveyances, bowling alleys, educational facilities, auditoriums, meeting rooms, schools, exhibition halls, convention facilities, polling places, bars, private clubs, gaming facilities, healthcare facilities or clinics, enclosed shopping centers, retail service establishments, financial institutions, public and private educational facilities, ticket areas, public hearing facilities, public restrooms, waiting areas, attorney's and doctor's offices. A private residence is not a "public place" unless used to provide licensed childcare, foster care, adult care, or other similar social service care on the premises.
- h. "Retail Store" means any establishment that sells goods or services directly to members of the general public including but not limited to grocery stores, specialty stores, department stores, pharmacies, banks, automobile dealerships, showrooms, professional offices, service stations, repair or maintenance stores, barber or beauty shops, cleaners, and Laundromats.

- I. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, or pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, in any manner or in any form. "Smoking" also includes the use of an electronic cigarette which creates a vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this regulation.

## **REGULATION OF SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES**

- A. Smoking shall be prohibited in all enclosed public places within Taylor County, including, but not limited to the following places:
  1. All means of public transit including taxis and buses, and all areas, including ticket, boarding and waiting areas.
  2. Retail stores and tobacco businesses.
  3. All restaurants, bars, gaming facilities and private clubs.
  4. Every room, chamber, place of meeting or public assembly, including school buildings, under the control of any board, council, commission, committee, including joint committees or any political subdivision of the State.
  5. All patient rooms, waiting rooms and other public areas in health facilities, including, but not limited to hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, physical therapy facilities, doctors' offices and dentists' offices.
  6. Enclosed shopping malls.
  7. Hotel and motels.
  8. Lobbies, hallways, and other common areas in apartment buildings, condominiums, trailer parks, retirement facilities, nursing homes, and other multiple-unit residential facilities.
- B. In any dispute arising under this Regulation, the health concerns of the nonsmoker shall be given precedence.
- C. Designated Outdoor Smoking Areas: To ensure the public access into public venues free from tobacco smoke exposure and to prevent tobacco smoke from entering protected areas, outdoor designated smoking areas shall occur at a distance of 20 feet or more outside any entrance, exit, or ventilation units of any buildings or enclosed area where smoking is prohibited. This shall include fresh air intake area for the heating, ventilation, air-conditioning (HVAC) system of any building.

## **REGULATION OF SMOKING IN ENCLOSED PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT**

It shall be the responsibility of employers to provide a smoke-free workplace for all employees. Each employer having an enclosed place of employment located within Taylor County shall adopt, implement, make known and maintain a written smoking policy which shall contain the following requirements:

Smoking shall be prohibited in all enclosed facilities within a place of

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employment. This includes common work areas, auditoriums, classrooms, conference and meeting rooms, private offices, elevators, hallways, medical facilities, cafeterias, employee lounges, stairs, restrooms, vehicles and all other enclosed facilities.

All employers shall supply a written copy of the smoking policy, upon request, to any existing or prospective employee.

## **WHERE SMOKING IS NOT REGULATED**

- A. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Regulation to the contrary, the following areas shall not be subject to the smoking restrictions of this Regulation:
  - 1. Private residences, except when used as a child care facility, adult care, foster care or other similar social care.
  - 2. Bingo operations operating under West Virginia Code Section 47-20-28a that distribute more than one hundred bingo cards or bingo sheets, but only for so long as the statutory interpretation of said code section provided by the West Virginia Supreme Court in the case of Foundation for Independent Living et. al. v. The Cabell-Huntington Board of Health, 591 S.E. 2d 749, (W.Va. 2003) remains the law.
  
- B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any person who controls any establishment described in this section may declare that entire establishment as a non smoking facility.

## **POSTING OF SIGNS**

- A. Because rules regulating smoking are primarily self-enforcing, their success depends heavily upon adequate signage.
  
- B. "No Smoking" signs shall be prominently posted in every building or other place where smoking is controlled by this Regulation, by the owner, operator, manager or other person having control of such building or other place.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

- A. Enforcement of this article shall be implemented by the Taylor County Health Officer, or his or her designee.
  
- B. Notice of the provisions set forth in this article shall be given to all applicants for a business license in the County of Taylor.
  
- C. Any citizen who desires to register a complaint under this chapter may initiate enforcement with the Taylor County Health Department.
  
- D. The Health Department shall inspect for compliance of this regulation.
  
- E. Any owner, manager, operator or employee of any establishment regulated by this article shall inform persons violating this article of the

appropriate provisions thereof.

## **NON-RETALIATION**

No person or employer shall discharge, refuse to hire or in any way retaliate against any employee, applicant for employment or member of the public because such person exercises any rights afforded by this Regulation.

## **OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS**

This Regulation shall not be interpreted or construed to permit smoking where it is otherwise restricted by other applicable laws, ordinances or regulations.

## **SEVERABILITY**

If any portion of this Regulation or the application thereof shall be held invalid, the other provisions of this Regulation shall not be affected, and to this end the provisions of this Regulation are declared to be severable.

## **VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES**

### **A. Violations:**

Willful violation of this Clean Indoor Air Regulation is an unlawful act.

(1) Any person who owns, manages, operates or otherwise controls the use of a premise shall commit a willful violation if they:

(a) Knowingly permit smoking on a premises subject to their control in an area where smoking is prohibited by the provisions of this Clean Indoor Air Regulation, or

(b) Knowingly violate any other provision of this Clean Indoor Air Regulation.

(2) Any person smoking in an area of a premise where smoking is prohibited with knowledge that he or she is in a non-smoking area commits a willful violation of this Clean Indoor Air Regulation.

### **B. Penalties:**

The Board of Health may, at its option, seek civil relief and/or file a misdemeanor under WV Code §16-2-15 against any person who willfully violates this Clean Indoor Air Regulation.

Enforcement through civil process, includes, but is not limited to a petition for injunctive relief.

Any person who willfully violates this Clean Indoor Air Regulation, may be charged with a misdemeanor under WV Code §16-2-15 and, upon conviction, be subject to a

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monetary fine. At the time of the adoption of this Clean Indoor Air Regulation, West Virginia Code §16-2-15 provided as follows:

**§16-2-15. Obstructing local health officers and others in the enforcement of public health laws; other violations; penalties.**

Any person who willfully obstructs any local health officer, public health nurse, sanitarian or any other person charged with the enforcement of any public health law, in the performance of that person's legal duties in enforcing the law, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars and not more than five hundred dollars.

Any person who willfully violates any of the provisions of this article, or any of the rules or orders adopted or issued pursuant to the provisions, for which a penalty is not otherwise provided, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred dollars and not more than one thousand dollars.

Magistrates have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts of this state for violations of provisions of this article.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Regulation, as amended, shall become effective 60 days after Board of Health adoption and a Notice of Publication for three successive days in a newspaper of general circulation in Taylor County, West Virginia.

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Health Officer

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Chairman, Board of Health

AMENDED: \_\_\_\_\_

FILED: \_\_\_\_\_

**Adopted: 5/22/12**

**Effective: 7/22/12**