

# The Smoke-Free Illinois Act

## A guide for employees of hospitality businesses

Effective January 1, 2008, all indoor workplaces and public places, including bars/taverns, restaurants, private clubs and casinos are smoke-free. Smoking will also be prohibited within 15 feet of all entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes.

### Enforcement Requirements

Proprietors and managers must prohibit smoking inside their establishments and outside within 15 feet of doors, windows that open and ventilation intakes. Current and potential employees must be informed of the new smoke-free law. The Act also requires the removal of all ashtrays.

### Outdoor smoking

Smoking in outdoor areas is not prohibited. However, the law does prohibit smoking within 15 feet of all entrances, windows that open, and ventilation intakes to prevent the infiltration of secondhand smoke into indoor smoke-free areas.

### If a customer refuses to comply

You and your staff must advise them of the new law. Politely explain that they must step outside to smoke. If the customer still refuses to comply, refer to your company's policy on dealing with difficult customers. You may wish to refuse service to customers who refuse to comply with the Act, as your business may still be held accountable.

### Penalties

Violating the Smoke-Free Illinois Act is an infraction subject to fines. Both the individual and the business or establishment can be fined under this law.

#### Fines for individuals:

- \$100 - \$250

#### Fines for business owners:

- First Violation: Not less than \$250
- Second Violation: Not less than \$500  
*(Within one year of the first violation.)*
- Additional Violations: Not less than \$2,500  
*(Each additional violation within one year.)*

### Filing a complaint

Complaints can be filed with the Illinois Department of Public Health. To file a complaint by phone, call **1-866-973-4646** during regular business hours or visit [www.smoke-free.illinois.gov](http://www.smoke-free.illinois.gov). Employees, patrons, and the public are all able to file complaints for non-compliance with the this law. Your local municipality might also have a local complaint process that you may use. Contact them for details.

The new law is an excellent opportunity for employees and patrons to quit smoking. The Illinois Tobacco Quitline, **1-866-QUIT-YES (866-784-8937)**, provides one-on-one phone counseling and support for smokers.