

Smoke-free Illinois Act

The Smoke-free Illinois Act (Public Act 95-0017) protects the public from the harmful effects of exposure to tobacco smoke by prohibiting smoking in public places and places of employment and within 15 feet of any entrance, exit, windows that open, or ventilation intake of a public place or place of employment.



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Business owner requirements:

- Not permit smoking at their business or within 15 feet of entrances, exits, windows that open and ventilation intakes.
- Post "No Smoking" signs at each entrance to the place of employment or public place where smoking is prohibited.
- Remove ashtrays from areas where smoking is prohibited.

Where is smoking be prohibited?

Smoking is not be allowed in any indoor public area, place of employment or vehicle owned, leased or operated by the state or political subdivision of the state.

Do "no smoking" signs have to be posted?

Yes. "No smoking" signs or the international no smoking symbol, consisting of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it, must be clearly and conspicuously posted in each public place covered by the act. Placement of the signs is the responsibility of the owner, operator, manager or other person in control of that place.

Can employees smoke near a public place or their place of employment?

Individuals must be a minimum distance of 15 feet from entrances, exits, windows that open or ventilation intakes when smoking.

How will the act be enforced?

The owner, manager or operator of an area open to the public covered by the act must make a reasonable effort to prevent smoking. The Illinois Department of Public Health, state-certified local public health departments and local law enforcement agencies will enforce the law.

What are the penalties?

A person who smokes in an area where smoking is prohibited can fined between \$100 and \$250. A person who owns, operates or otherwise controls a public place or place of employment who violates the act can be fined not less than \$250 for the first violation, not less than \$500 for the second violation within one year after the first violation and not less than \$2,500 for each additional violation within one year after the first violation.

