

Smoke Free Air Laws in Monroe County

The City of Bloomington and Monroe County have enacted ordinances that ban smoking in public places and places of employment. This includes all businesses, restaurants, bars, and private clubs. In addition to eliminating secondhand smoke inside, Bloomington's ordinance prohibits smoking in outdoor seating areas at restaurants and bars and public places such as ATMs and bus stops. Smoking must occur a reasonable distance outside any area where smoking is prohibited.

These smoke free air laws are designed to protect the public health and welfare of the community from health hazards induced by breathing secondhand smoke. The health hazards include lung cancer, heart disease and respiratory infections.

Definitions to assist you with understanding the smoke free air laws in Monroe County

Bar: Any building, room or area used primarily for the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption by guests on the premises and in which the sale of food and the provision of entertainment is merely incidental to the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Business: Any entity formed for profit-making purposes; establishment where goods and services are sold; professional corporation; entities where legal, medical, dental, engineering, architectural or other professional service are delivered; and private homes used as child care, adult daycare or healthcare facility.

Place of Employment: Any enclosed area where employees normally frequent during the course of employment. Private homes are not considered a place of employment unless used as a childcare, adult daycare or healthcare facility.

Private Club: Any group or association of persons, lodge or organization established for a joint or common purpose.

Public Place: Any enclosed area, including vehicles, which is open to the public or where the public is invited or permitted to enter.

Reasonable Distance: A distance far enough outside an enclosed area to ensure that tobacco smoke does not enter the area through entrances, windows, ventilation systems or any other means.

Restaurant: Any coffee shop, cafeteria, sandwich stand, private and public school cafeteria, and any other eating establishment offering food for sale to the public, guests, or employees, as well as kitchens in which food is prepared on the premises for serving elsewhere, including catering facilities.

For More Information

Go to www.smokefreebloomington.org for information about health risks associated with smoking and secondhand smoke as well as information about free cessation classes for individuals and businesses. For help quitting call 800-QUIT-NOW.

Smoke-Free Partners

- City of Bloomington
- Monroe County Health Department
- Bloomington Hospital
- Downtown Bloomington Commission
- Monroe Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Coalition

Reporting Compliance Violations

For Locations within Bloomington City Limits:

- Call 349-3850. State the location, nature, and date of the violation.
- Email smokefree@city.bloomington.in.gov. Type "compliance violation" into the subject heading. Report the location, nature, and date of the violation.
- Mail a letter. Include the location, nature, and date of the violation and mail to: Smoke Free, P.O. Box 100, Bloomington, Indiana 47402

For Monroe County Locations (outside Bloomington City Limits):

- Call 349-2543. State the location, nature, and date of the violation.
- Email mchealth@co.monroe.in.us. Type "compliance violation" into the subject heading. Report the location, nature, and date of the violation.

Thanks to Bloomington Hospital for the printing of this brochure.



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Bloomington and Monroe County are committed to being smoke-free—for our children, our visitors, and ourselves. Thank you for your efforts to understand and comply with the city and county smoke free air laws.

This brochure is designed to help you understand the details of Monroe County's smoke free air laws.

Why did Bloomington and Monroe County enact smoke free ordinances?

Because Smoke Free Air Laws Are Good for Your Health:

- Secondhand smoke exposure is the third leading cause of preventable death in the U.S., killing 53,000 nonsmokers each year.
- Exposure to secondhand smoke increases the risk of fatal and non-fatal coronary heart disease in non-smokers by about 30%.
- Exposure to secondhand smoke is associated with increased asthma severity and worsened lung function in children with asthma.
- There is a causal relationship between secondhand smoke exposure and lung cancer, nasal sinus cancer, and breast cancer in young women.

Because Smoke Free Air Laws Benefit Business:

- Economic impact studies across the country demonstrate no negative impact or a positive impact.
- Restaurants in smokefree cities have a higher market value at resale (an average of 16% higher) than comparable restaurants located in smoke-filled cities.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that smokefree restaurants can expect to save about \$190 per 1,000 square feet each year in lower cleaning and maintenance costs.
- The American Cancer Society reports that employees who smoke have an average insured payment for health care of \$1,145, while nonsmoking employees average \$762.

Questions Regarding Smoke Free Air Laws in Monroe County

Q: Are bars and private clubs exempt from either the City or County smoking ordinances?

A: No. On January 1, 2005, all bars and private clubs became smoke free.

Q: Can business patrons or employees smoke outside a business establishment?

A: Yes. Patrons and employees may smoke outside as long as they are far enough away from the building so that smoke cannot enter from a door, window or vent. However, patrons may not smoke in outside seating provided by eating establishments or bars, but may smoke a reasonable distance away from such seating so that smoke is not detected there.

Q: Can a business owner ban smoking anywhere on exterior premises?

A: Yes. An owner can ban smoking outside on privately owned property.

Q: Does Indiana University have a smoke free policy?

A: Yes. Smoking is prohibited in university buildings and within 30 feet of all building entrances.

Q: Can employees smoke in business-owned vehicles?

A: Employees may not smoke in business-owned vehicles if more than one employee is present in such a vehicle.

Q: Can employees smoke in their personal cars?

A: Yes. Private vehicles are not covered by the smoke free ordinances.

Q: Must businesses remove smoking paraphernalia and post signs designating the building as smoke-free?

A: Yes. All ashtrays in or attached to a building shall be removed and "No Smoking" signs must be posted at every entrance clearly stating that smoking is prohibited.

Q: What is the fine for non-compliance?

A: The typical fine for non-compliance is a \$100 citation. As appropriate, City of Bloomington or Monroe County government will monitor compliance, notify businesses of compliance violations and pursue legal enforcement actions when necessary.

Q: What is the procedure for reporting a compliance violation?

- A:** For Locations within Bloomington City Limits:
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Q: Is there a website I can go to for more information?

A: Yes. www.smokefreebloomington.org.