



Frequently Asked Questions About Act 8

Per the Arkansas Attorney General's Office, the Clean Indoor Air Act will go into effect on the 91st days after the end of the Special Legislative Session which ended "officially" on April 21, 2006 making the effective date July 21, 2006. Act 8 will protect nearly all Arkansas workers from deadly secondhand smoke in the workplace.

Q: What is secondhand smoke?

A: Secondhand smoke is a combination of a smoker's exhaled smoke and the smoke from a burning cigarette. It contains more than 4,000 substances, including 60 known cancer-causing substances and kills an estimated 53,000 nonsmokers each year in the United States.

Q: How can I file a complaint?

A: An employee or a member of the public can file a confidential complaint against a person that violates the act by contacting your Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services. The telephone number is yet-to-be-determined.

Q: What are the penalties?

A: Any person regulated by this law can be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$500.00 for each violation.

Q: Do I need to provide a smoking break room for my employees?

A: No. In fact, the law prohibits employers from providing a smoking break room for employees. Businesses with separately ventilated rooms for their smoking employees, including OSHA compliant smoking rooms, cannot allow smoking in these rooms or anywhere else in the building.

Q: Can I smoke in my private office in a commercial/business work establishment?

A: No.

Q: What organizations/businesses does this act not apply to?

A: There are very few organizations/businesses that this act does not apply to. A hotel or motel with twenty-five or fewer rooms; retail tobacco businesses (primary activity is the retail sale of tobacco products and accessories and the sale of other products is merely incidental); employers with fewer than three employees and the business is not open to the public; adult only (over 21) restaurants and bars; The wagering/gaming floor area at Southland and Oak-Lawn racing facilities and nursing homes. **Any of these places can choose to be totally smoke-free.**

To learn more about the Clean Indoor Air Act, contact Coalition for a Tobacco Free Arkansas at (501) 687-0345 or contact Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services-Division of Health.

If you smoke and want to quit, or know someone who wants to quit call the Arkansas Smokers' Quit Line at 1-866-NOW-QUIT (1-866-669-7848) for free helpful information, or visit www.stampoutsmoking.com