

Quick Facts on the Tobacco Laws

1. If you are under the age of 18 years, it is illegal to possess, smoke, chew, or ingest tobacco. It is also illegal to purchase or attempt to purchase tobacco.

2. If you are under the age of 18 years and use a Minnesota driver's license, permit, or identification card to purchase or attempt to purchase tobacco, your driver's license may be suspended for 90 days.

3. If you lend or allow another person under the age of 18 years to use your driver's license, permit, or identification card to purchase or attempt to purchase tobacco, you may lose your license for 90 days.

4. If you are under the age of 18 years and commit a second or subsequent juvenile tobacco offense, your license may be revoked until you reach the age of 18, or for a period of one year, whichever is longer.

5. Anyone who sells tobacco to a person under the age of 18 years will be charged an administrative penalty.



**BE SMART-
DON'T START!**
Use of Tobacco Kills

Contact Your School District
Chemical Health Awareness Specialist

Diversion Resources

Family Service Inc.-East Communities
1703 East Cope Avenue
Maplewood, MN 55102
Phone: 651-777-8060
Fax: 651-777-6809

Forest Lake Youth Service Bureau
244 North Lake Street
Forest Lake, MN 55025
Phone: 651-464-3685
Fax: 651-464-3687

Oakdale Police Department
1584 Hadley Avenue North
Oakdale, MN 55128
Phone: 651-738-1022
Fax: 651-730-2828

Youth Service Bureau
7064 West Point Douglas Road
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Phone: 651-458-5224
Fax: 651-458-5310

Youth Service Bureau
101 West Pine Street
Stillwater, MN 55082
Phone: 651-439-8800
Fax: 651-439-1040

White Bear Lake
Area Community Counseling Center
1280 Birch Lake Boulevard North
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Phone: 651-429-8544
Fax: 651-407-5301



A Washington County Coalition

If you want more brochures call 651-430-6655
www.co.washington.mn.us/pubhlth/pubhlth.html

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**WHAT
HAPPENS
IF I GET
CAUGHT
USING
TOBACCO IN
WASHINGTON
COUNTY?**

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Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action



What's the big deal about tobacco anyway?

Tobacco is a highly addictive drug and can serve as the gateway to other forms of drug addiction. More than 80% of smokers started before the age of 18. Cigarette smoking is perhaps the most easily preventable cause of disease and premature death.

**Don't I have a right to smoke?
OR "I can do what I want, it's
my right to smoke."**

Minnesota State Law Statute 609.685, states that if you are under 18, it is illegal to possess, smoke, chew, or ingest tobacco. It is also illegal to purchase or attempt to purchase tobacco.

OK, I got a ticket – now what?

The court may:

1. Require you pay a fine up to \$100.
2. Require you to participate in a community services project.
3. Require you to perform any other activities or participate in any other outpatient treatment programs deemed appropriate by the court.
4. In all cases where the juvenile court finds that a minor has purchased or attempted to purchase tobacco in violation of section 609.685, subdivision 3, if the minor has a driver's license or permit to drive, and if the minor used a driver's license, permit, or Minnesota identification card to purchase or attempt to purchase tobacco, the court shall forward its findings in the case and the minor's driver's license or permit to the commissioner of public safety.

What is the Diversion Program?

The Diversion program is offered by the area Youth Service Bureau as an alternative to court to juveniles involved in illegal use of tobacco products. The program consists of an educational class taught by staff at the Youth Service Bureau. The cost of the program varies by location.

Who is eligible for the program?

1. First time juvenile tobacco offenders.
2. Juveniles referred by school officials because of tobacco use.
3. Juveniles referred by the Court.
4. Any juvenile who voluntarily enrolls in the program.
5. Juvenile referred by Parent or Guardian.

Health Risks Associated With Smoking

Diminished Sense of
Smell and Taste

Stroke

Gastric Ulcers

Frequent Colds

Emphysema

Heart Disease

Cancer

Premature and more
Abundant Facial
Wrinkles

Chronic Bronchitis
Smoker's Cough

More than 80% of smokers started before the age of 18.

What are the components of the program?

1. The juvenile must attend one or more educational classes.
2. The juvenile must pay the class fee at or before the start of the class.
3. The class focuses on:
 - Advertising techniques used by tobacco companies to manipulate youth.
 - Types of chemicals found in tobacco.
 - Affects of tobacco on the body.
 - Costs associated with tobacco.
 - Quit tips, health benefits of quitting, and resources available to help.
 - Legal consequences of using tobacco.

Why should I choose Diversion rather than go to Court?

- You will receive helpful information on how to quit using tobacco.
- The cost of the class is less than the court fine.
- You will not have a court record of having committed the offense.

"Every day about 3,000 American teenagers become regular smokers."

Smoking kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, crack, heroin, homicide, suicide, car accidents, fires and AIDS COMBINED.