



Coming Oct. 1st

Workplace Smoking Changes

Under the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act, smoking was permitted in places of work in some limited situations. With the passage of the Freedom to Breathe Act, the vast majority of those exceptions have been eliminated. The table below outlines the changes.

Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act (MCIAA) (current law)	Freedom To Breathe Act (FTB) (effective October 1, 2007)
<p>“Places of work not usually frequented by the general public.” Smoking is allowed in “places of work not usually frequented by the general public,” except that smoking is limited in “offices” and “factories, warehouses, or similar places of work.” (See below.)</p>	<p>Smoking is prohibited in all indoor places of work for more than one person, except under certain narrow circumstances.*</p>
<p>“Offices” and “Factories, Warehouses, or Similar Places of Work.” Smoking is allowed in “private enclosed offices” when the door is closed and in smoking sections of employee lunchrooms and lounges that meet certain spatial and separation requirements.</p>	<p>Smoking is prohibited in all indoor places of work for more than one person, including lunchrooms, lounges and offices, except under certain narrow circumstances.*</p>
<p>“Public Places” and “Public Meetings.” Smoking sections may be designated in other public places and at public meetings.</p>	<p>Smoking is prohibited in all indoor public places and at public meetings, except under certain narrow circumstances.*</p>
<p>“Bars” and “Private Social Functions.” Bars and private social functions may allow smoking throughout the establishment.</p>	<p>Bars must be smoke-free. Indoor private social functions must be smoke-free if they serve as a place of employment for two or more people, or if they meet the definition of “public place.”</p>
<p>Meeting Rooms. Meeting rooms, such as privately rented meeting rooms in hotels, are public places where smoking sections may be designated.</p>	<p>Meeting rooms are still treated as public places, but all public places will be required to be entirely smoke-free, except under certain narrow circumstances.*</p>

*Smoking may occur in places of work and public places in the following locations or situations: hotel and motel sleeping rooms, certain tobacco products shops for sampling purposes only, certain family farms, public transportation vehicles when in personal use, cabs of heavy commercial vehicles, farm vehicles and construction equipment when used for intended purposes, certain nursing home rooms, certain rooms occupied by patients in locked psychiatric units, peer-reviewed studies on the health effects of smoking, traditional Native American ceremonies, the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp in Washington County, and by actors performing in theatrical productions.

“Fresh air is good for everybody!”