

How Does the Smoke-Free Law Affect Churches, Chapels and Other Places of Worship?



From 6.00 am on Sunday 1 July 2007 almost all enclosed public places and workplaces will by law have to be smoke-free. This will include churches, chapels and other places of worship.

What does the smoke-free legislation require?

- That people do not smoke inside the church, chapel etc.
- That no-smoking signs are prominently displayed at entrances that are normally used by worshippers and visitors.

Does the law require that the no-smoking signs are fixed to entrance doors or the fabric of the church etc?

No. The law only requires that signs are displayed at entrances. Ways in which a no-smoking sign could be displayed include the following:

- On a notice board inside a porch.
- On a fold out notice board that is placed at the entrance door, when the church etc. is open.
- On a board that can be hung from a door latch or handle, when the church etc. is open.

What sort of sign is required?

The law requires that the sign is of at least A5 size, displays the international no-smoking symbol and has written on it:

No smoking. It is against the law to smoke in these premises

Can churches still light candles and burn incense?

Yes they can. The law only applies to tobacco and other substances that people smoke.

Does the smoke-free law apply to gatherings or prayer group meetings held in someone's home?

No the law does not apply.

Where can churches etc. get advice?

Contact your local Environmental Health Department to speak to an officer or to arrange an advisory visit:

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| • Breckland District Council | Telephone: 01362 656870 |
| • Broadland District Council | Telephone 01603 431133 |
| • Gt. Yarmouth Borough Council | Telephone 01493 846478 |
| • Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council | Telephone 01553 616200 |
| • North Norfolk District Council | Telephone 01263 513811 |
| • Norwich City Council | Telephone 01603 212212 |
| • South Norfolk District Council | Telephone 01508 533714 |

Also log onto the Smokefree England website at www.smokefreeengland.co.uk for information about going smoke-free or telephone 0800 1691697.

Note: This guidance was agreed by representatives of the seven Norfolk Local Authorities in March 2007 and will be regularly reviewed in light of changes to legislation, unforeseen implications of the introduction of the smoking ban etc. This guidance was produced whilst the Regulations were in draft form so you should also consider taking your own legal advice.