

I am a Smoker – How Does the Smoke-Free Laws Affect Me?



From **1 July 2007** a new law came into force that requires many places where people work or visit to be smoke-free. The law applies to public transport and to some work vehicles.

What sort of places and vehicles have to be smoke-free?

Examples of places that have to be smoke-free include – offices, factories, shops, hospitals, restaurants, pubs, bars and cinemas. Buses, coaches, taxis, mini-cabs and trains will at all times also have to be smoke-free.

How will people know if they cannot smoke somewhere?

The law requires that no-smoking signs have to be shown at entrances to smoke-free places and also in any vehicle that has to be smoke-free.

What could happen if someone smokes where they shouldn't?

Authorised officers of the Council will enforce the smoke-free law. They are able to give someone an on the spot fine of £50 for smoking in a place or vehicle that has to be smoke-free. However, if the matter goes to Court, the fine could be up to £200.

Where are people allowed to smoke?

People can generally smoke anywhere that does not by law have to be smoke-free. For example people will not be breaking the law when they smoke out in the open air.

The law also does not stop people from smoking inside a private dwelling, but stairwells, lifts and corridors in blocks of flats or apartments have to be smoke-free.

Hotels and guest houses can designate some of their bedrooms to be 'smoking allowed rooms' for the use of the guest, for the duration of their stay. But it is against the law for someone to smoke in a bedroom that has not been designated.

What happens if people use their own home as a workplace?

The Government has no intention to make private dwellings and private residential spaces smoke-free, but the law will apply to parts of dwellings used solely as a place of work by more than one person. Organisations may ask that visiting employees providing a service in someone's home is afforded smoke-free conditions whilst they are working there.

Where can people get help if they want to quit smoking?

For help and advice log onto www.cignificant.co.uk or telephone Norfolk Stop Smoking Service on 0800 0854 113.

Another source is www.gosmokefree.co.uk or telephone NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 1690169.

For guidance on anything to do with Smoke-Free England you can log onto www.smokefreeengland.co.uk