

A Guide for Tobacco Retailers

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

It is illegal for a retailer to sell any tobacco product, vapor product or alternative nicotine product including cigarettes, cigars, hookah and e-cigarettes to anyone under the age of 21.

	State Law	Federal Law
Law	Michigan Youth Tobacco Act	Federal Tobacco 21
Age to Purchase Tobacco	21	21
Sell to Someone Under 21	Violation of State Law (CLERK will receive fine)	Violation of Federal Law (OWNER will receive fine)

State Resources - Michigan Youth Tobacco Act (YTA)

On July 21, 2022, Governor Whitmer signed a legislative package to raise the state age for tobacco product, vapor product or alternative nicotine product sales from 18 to 21.

State-mandated YTA and complimentary Birthdate Signs are located at MDHHS Health Promotions Clearinghouse at <https://healthymichigan.com/> (click "Tobacco").



Federal Resources - Food & Drug Administration (FDA)

To give retailers all the tools they need to comply with tobacco regulations, the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products has developed an education program called "This is Our Watch."

A full toolkit of This is Our Watch resources is available to retailers - including posters, stickers, age verification tools and more.

<https://www.fda.gov/tobacco-products/retail-sales-tobacco-products/our-watch>



Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration
Substance Use, Gambling and Epidemiology Section

Do Your Part: Keep tobacco, vaping, and alternative nicotine products away from individuals under 21

Tobacco & Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) Retailers - What to Know

Tobacco retailers play a direct role in protecting kids from nicotine addiction and the deadly effects of tobacco use. Do your part to prevent our nation's youth from becoming the next generation to die prematurely from tobacco-related disease.

Laws: It is against both federal and state law to sell tobacco and e-cigarettes to anyone under the age of 21.

Tobacco, vaping, and alternative nicotine products include:

- Cigarettes
- Cigarette and Roll-Your-Own Tobacco
- Cigars
- Smokeless Tobacco
- Hookah and Pipe Tobacco
- ENDS / E-Cigarettes
- E-Juice
- Dissolvables

Loosies: Do NOT sell cigarette packages containing fewer than 20 cigarettes, including single cigarettes, known as "loosies."

Check the identification of anyone that appears to be under 27 (or in compliance with the store policy).

IDENTIFICATION	VERIFY THE IDENTIFICATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Must be government issued, contain a picture, and a birthdate● State Driver's License● State Identification Card● Military ID● Passport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hold it in YOUR hand● Examine the picture and information● If it is a vertical license - do not sell● Ask questions (e.g., ask to verify birth date)● Use an ID scanner or FDA app● Know the security features / Use a black light to check security features

Under 21 or no ID, do not sell tobacco to them! Tell them:

- "Sorry, I can't sell to you."
- "It's the law."
- "I can be fined."
- "It's my company policy."
- "I could be fired."

Angry customer: Keep your cool. State the law and store policy. Call the manager.

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