

## **Michigan's Smoke Free Law: Guide for Business Owners**

### **What is the smoke-free law?**

Michigan's new smoke-free law prohibits smoking in most public places. As of May 1, 2010, all worksites in Michigan (including bars and restaurants) must be smoke-free. Under the new law, smoking is not allowed on patios and decks where service is intended and is also prohibited in enclosed areas of hotels, motels, and inns (including rooms).

### **Why was the law passed?**

When the Michigan legislature passed the new law, it included formal "findings" explaining that secondhand smoke or the smoke released from the burning end of a cigarette and the smoke exhaled by the smoker, "has been proven to cause cancer, heart disease, and asthma attacks in both smokers and nonsmokers. In 2006, a report issued by the United States Surgeon General stated that the scientific evidence indicates that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke." This means that breathing in even a small amount of smoke from someone else's cigarette, cigar or pipe could be harmful to you. The new law will protect people from the harm caused by secondhand smoke.

### **What does the law require me to do? (See Compliance Check List)**

Beginning May 1, 2010, a person in charge of an establishment that is subject to the new smoke-free law must:

- Post required no-smoking signs
- Remove indoor ashtrays and other smoking receptacles, and
- Direct any person who is smoking to extinguish the cigarette, cigar or other lighted tobacco item.

***Even if the establishment is already smoke-free, the venue still must post the required signs.***