



No Smoking Ordinance FAQs

➤ ***Why did the City of Huntsville decide to prohibit smoking in public places and in places of employment?***

The purpose of the ordinance is to promote public health by decreasing citizens' exposure to secondhand smoke, thereby creating smoke-free environments for workers and citizens through regulations in the work place and all public places.

➤ ***What is the effective date of the smoking ordinance?***

Active enforcement will begin on July 5, 2017.

➤ ***Are e-cigarettes and vaping allowed under this ordinance?***

No. The ordinance is all inclusive and prohibits all such devices in all places where smoking is not allowed.

➤ ***Who do I contact to file a complaint about a violation of the smoking ordinance?***

Any citizen who desires to register a complaint under this chapter may initiate enforcement with the City of Huntsville non-emergency number at 936-294-5700 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 936-435-8001 after hours.

➤ ***Where is smoking prohibited?***

Smoking is prohibited in all enclosed areas within a place of employment without exception. This includes restaurants, bars, retail establishments, offices, and other public places. Smoking is also prohibited within 20' of any public entrance to a facility within the city.

➤ ***What types of establishments are exempt from the smoking ordinance?***

Smoking is not regulated in private residences (except when used as childcare or health care facilities), designated guest rooms in hotels, retail tobacco stores, designated private or semi-private rooms in nursing homes, and fraternal organizations.

➤ ***Who is responsible for enforcement of the smoking ordinance?***

It is the responsibility of the owner, manager, operator, or employee of any establishment to enforce the regulations of the ordinance at their establishment.

➤ ***Can an individual be issued a citation if they smoke within 20 feet of a public entrance?***

Yes. Any person observed smoking where smoking is prohibited by ordinance is individually responsible for the violation.

➤ ***What is the penalty for violating the smoking ordinance?***

Violations of the ordinance are a Class C Misdemeanor and may result in a citation filed with Municipal Court, punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.

➤ ***As an employer do I have to post the appropriate signage?***

Yes. The employer or owner/operator in charge is responsible for posting "No Smoking" signage.

➤ ***How can I obtain a copy of the smoking ordinance?***

You may find a copy on the City website at <http://www.huntsvilletx.gov/smoking> or you may contact the City Secretary's office at 936-291-5403 or citysecretary@huntsvilletx.gov.