

Template Policy for Behavioral Health Facilities – Meets State Law

Summary:

(*Behavioral health facility*) is dedicated to providing its clients, staff, visitors and vendors with a safe and healthy environment by providing a smoke-free indoor environment, as required by Maine law (22 M.R.S.A. § 1580-A). Smoking of tobacco products will only be allowed outdoors and only in locations that are at least 20-feet from any entryway, vent, window or doorway or where smoke can circulate back into the building.

Policy:

(*Behavioral health facility*) recognizes that there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke and that smoking is detrimental to the health and safety of everyone. Preventable chronic disease is a significant contributor to early mortality in behavioral health populations. People with serious mental illness are dying 25 years younger than average, often from preventable physical conditions such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Smoking rates among persons in behavioral health populations are many times higher than the general population. A smoke free life can be achieved by behavioral health populations, and can add years of wellbeing and a healthy life. This organization has adopted a smoke-free policy, effective (*insert date*), that meets state law and applies to all staff, clients, visitors and vendors. This policy applies to the smoking of all tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars and pipes, in:

- All enclosed areas where work is performed, as well as in all restrooms, all meetings, all lunch rooms and all private offices.
- All employer-owned and all employer-leased vehicles being used by employees.
- All employee-owned vehicles used in the course of work whenever other employees or another person is in the vehicle for work-related reasons.

Smoking of tobacco products will only be allowed outdoors and only in locations that are at least 20-feet from any entryway, vent, window or doorway or where smoke can circulate back into the building.

No smoking signs are posted at all building entrances and throughout the building. In addition, this policy is included in training manuals and new employee orientation.

Procedures:

This policy will be communicated through signage at key locations throughout the facility, at staff education, including being written into training manuals and new employee orientation, and to client through admission paperwork and discussion.

Everyone is required to comply with (*organization's*) tobacco-free policy. Enforcement of this policy will follow the standard procedures of the facility.

Information regarding tobacco treatment resources, such as onsite counseling and the Maine Tobacco HelpLine, will be made available for tobacco users who are interested in quitting.

To help support healthy, tobacco-free lifestyles, (*organization*) will assess all clients for tobacco use at intake and address tobacco as part of a comprehensive treatment plan.