

# Pay a Compliment, NOT A FINE

NOT ALL CUSTOMERS LOOK THEIR AGE.  
REQUIRE POSITIVE ID FOR TOBACCO SALES.



## CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES

### Sec. 53-344. Sale of tobacco to minors under eighteen.

(b) Any person who sells, gives or delivers to any minor under eighteen years of age tobacco, unless the minor is delivering or accepting delivery in such person's capacity as an employee, in any form shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars (\$200) for the first offense, not more than three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) for a second offense within an eighteen-month period and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) for each subsequent offense within an eighteen-month period.

### Sec. 53-344a. Sale of tobacco. Proof of age.

Each retailer of cigarettes or tobacco products or employee of such retailer shall require a person who is purchasing or attempting to purchase cigarettes or tobacco products, whose age is in question, to exhibit proper proof of age. If a person fails to provide such proof of age, such retailer or employee shall not sell cigarettes or tobacco products to the person. As used in this section, "proper proof" means a motor vehicle operator's license, a valid passport or an identity card issued in accordance with the provisions of section 1-1h.

### Sec. 12-286a. Notice of restriction on sale of cigarettes and tobacco products.

(a) Each distributor and each dealer, as defined in section 12-285, shall place and maintain in legible condition at each point of sale of cigarettes to consumers, including the front of each vending machine, and each restricted cigarette vending machine a notice which states (1) that the sale, giving or delivering of tobacco products, including cigarettes, to any person under eighteen years of age is prohibited by section 53-344, (2) the purchase or misrepresentation of age by a person under eighteen years of age to purchase



cigarettes or tobacco products is prohibited by said section 53-344, and (3) the penalties and fines for violating said section 53-344 and section 12-295a.

### Sec. 12-314. Packaging for sale.

(a)(1) The sale of cigarettes other than in an unopened package containing twenty or more cigarettes originating with the manufacturer which bears the health warning required by law is prohibited.

### Sec. 12-289a. Vending machines: Placement restrictions. Penalties.

(a) No cigarette vending machine or restricted cigarette vending machine may be placed in an area, facility or business which is frequented primarily by minors. No cigarettes may be dispensed from any machine other than a cigarette vending machine or a restricted cigarette vending machine.

(b) A cigarette vending machine may be placed only in (1) an area, facility or business which is accessible only to adults or (2) an area, facility or business permitted under chapter 545 if the area, facility or business has a separate area accessible only to adults and the machine is placed in such area.

(g) The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall assess any person, dealer or distributor who violates the provisions of this section a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for a first violation and five hundred dollars (\$500) for a

second violation within eighteen months. For a third violation within eighteen months, such penalty shall be five hundred dollars (\$500) and any such machine shall be immediately removed from such area, facility or business and no such machine may be placed in such area, facility or business for a period of one year following such removal.

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and law enforcement agencies shall conduct random, unannounced inspections of tobacco retailers to insure compliance with all laws relating to sales of tobacco to minors. Violators are subject to the provisions of the above statutes.

This merchant education campaign is funded by the Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and administered by Wheeler Clinic's Connecticut Clearinghouse.

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Para información en español, visite [www.ctclearinghouse.org](http://www.ctclearinghouse.org)

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## CONNECTICUT LAW IS CLEAR – DON'T SELL TOBACCO TO MINORS

- ▶ It is against the law to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18.
- ▶ All employees, managers, and owners are responsible for enforcing the law.

### Employee Penalties for Violations

- ▶ Anyone who sells tobacco to minors can be subject to civil and criminal penalties.
- ▶ Employees can be fined up to:

**\$200** for a first offense  
**\$350** for a second offense  
**\$500** for subsequent offenses

### Tips for Employees

- ▶ Know and enforce the law – you are responsible.
- ▶ Always ask for acceptable photo identification from a customer whose age is in question.
- ▶ Know how to determine the customer's age, and never sell cigarettes or tobacco products to anyone under 18 years of age.
- ▶ Ask the owner or manager for assistance when dealing with underage or angry customers.
- ▶ Saying the following might be helpful when challenging situations arise:

“Consider it a compliment that you look so young.”

“It's the law, and I could be fined \$200 or more.”

“It's the law, and I might lose my job.”

“Let me get the store manager to help you.”

### Acceptable Forms of ID

- ▶ Motor vehicle operator's license
- ▶ Valid passport
- ▶ Department of Motor Vehicles issued identity card

### Tips for Owners and Managers

- ▶ Regularly train and remind all employees that it is against the law to sell cigarettes and tobacco products to minors under the age of 18.
- ▶ Require all employees to ask for an acceptable form of identification, and teach them how to calculate a customer's age.
- ▶ Regularly remind employees that random unannounced inspections are being conducted statewide and that your establishment will be visited.
- ▶ Give positive recognition to employees who follow state statutes during compliance checks.
- ▶ Develop employee guidelines and management procedures for handling underage or angry customers.
- ▶ Review the types of tobacco products that are restricted by law with employees - including cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, and other related items.

