

Ramsey County Smoking and Commercial Tobacco Use Ordinance

1.00 This Ordinance will be known as the "Ramsey County Smoking and Commercial Tobacco Use Ordinance."

2.00 Purpose

2.01 The main objectives of this Ordinance are:

- A. To protect the health of the people of Ramsey County from the negative effects of commercial tobacco while in public places and places of employment.
- B. To affirm the right of people to breathe air without secondhand smoke.
- C. To reduce commercial tobacco use and exposure in children, youth and young adults.
- D. To protect the health of vulnerable and disproportionately impacted populations.
- E. To reduce waste from commercial tobacco products that can harm human and animal health and the environment.

3.00 Authority

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners is authorized to adopt this Ordinance by Minnesota Statutes sections 44.417, subd. 4(a) and chapters 145A and 375, the Home Rule Charter for Ramsey County, and other applicable legislation, as may be adopted or amended from time to time.

4.00 Jurisdiction

4.01 This Ordinance applies throughout all of Ramsey County.

4.02 Nothing in this Ordinance will prevent cities and townships within Ramsey County from adopting stricter rules to protect people from smoking or commercial tobacco products.

4.03 Nothing in this Ordinance authorizes smoking or the use of commercial tobacco products in any location where smoking or the use of commercial tobacco products is restricted by other laws.

5.00 Definitions

For purposes of this Ordinance, the following definitions apply, unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning. Any term that is not defined will be interpreted as the commonly understood meaning.

5.01 County staff. County staff and service providers include but are not limited to: employees; independent contractors; contractors; vendors; consultants; volunteers; and elected and appointed officials.

5.02 Electronic delivery device. Any product containing or delivering nicotine, lobelia or any other substance, whether natural or synthetic, intended for human consumption through the inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the product. Electronic delivery device includes, but is not limited to, devices manufactured, marketed or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pens, mods, tank systems, or under any other product name or descriptor. Electronic delivery device includes any component part of

a product, whether or not marketed or sold separately. Electronic delivery device does not include any “drug,” “device,” or “combination product” as defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act that has been authorized by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes.

5.03 Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act. Minnesota Statutes Sections 144.411 to 144.417, as amended from time to time.

5.04 Place of employment. “Place of employment” as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 144.413, subd. 1b, as amended from time to time.

5.05 Public place. “Public place” as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 144.413, subd. 2, as amended from time to time.

5.06 Smoking. Inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other lighted or heated product containing, made or derived from nicotine, marijuana, or other plant, whether natural or synthetic, that is intended for inhalation. Smoking will also include carrying or using an activated electronic delivery device.

5.07 Commercial tobacco product. Any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine, whether natural or synthetic, that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product including, but not limited to, cigarettes; cigars; cheroots; stogies; perique; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine cut and other chewing tobaccos; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco; and other kinds and forms of tobacco. Commercial tobacco products do not include traditional or ceremonial tobacco plant material used as part of an American Indian cultural practice or a lawfully recognized religious, spiritual or cultural ceremony or practice or any nicotine cessation product that has been authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to be marketed and for sale as “drugs,” “devices,” or “combination products,” as defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

5.08 Commercial tobacco product use. The act of smoking or the consumption of any commercial tobacco product.

6.00 Prohibitions and Exceptions

6.01 Prohibitions

A. Smoking is not allowed in indoor public places and places of employment as defined by the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act.

B. Smoking and commercial tobacco product use are not allowed at any time by any person on any property that is owned, leased, rented, contracted or otherwise used or controlled by Ramsey County. This prohibition includes but is not limited to, all facilities; grounds; parking lots; work areas, vehicles and equipment; walkways, paths and trails; park and recreation areas, lands and bodies of water; public golf courses, playgrounds, beaches, swimming pools, nature areas and recreation centers.

C. Smoking or commercial tobacco product use is not allowed in personal vehicles parked on property that is owned, leased, rented, contracted or otherwise used or controlled by Ramsey County.

D. Except as provided in Section 6.02, smoking is not allowed within twenty-five (25) feet of entrances, exits, windows and ventilation intakes of public places and places of employment.

6.02 Exceptions. The prohibitions in Section 6.01 do not apply to the following places or situations:

A. The proprietor of a food establishment may set aside an outdoor dining or bar area of a food establishment for smoking. This may be done if this location is appropriately signed as a smoking area, and the area is not immediately next to a building entrance.

B. Members of the public passing through on an outdoor street, alley or sidewalk where smoking is prohibited by this Ordinance, while on their way to another location.

C. Use of tobacco as part of an American Indian cultural practice or a lawfully recognized religious, spiritual or cultural ceremony or practice. Sacred, traditional use of tobacco for prayer, ceremony and memorial is allowed.

7.00 Enforcement

A. No person or employer can permit smoking in an area they control where smoking is prohibited by this or any other law.

B. No County staff can permit smoking or commercial tobacco product use in any area that is under the control of Ramsey County and in which smoking or commercial tobacco product use is prohibited by this or any other law.

C. County staff may check property that is owned, leased, rented, contracted or otherwise used or controlled by the County to make sure this Ordinance is not violated. Any person who violates this Ordinance will be reminded of its requirements and asked to immediately stop smoking or using commercial tobacco products. Any person who does not stop smoking or using commercial tobacco products will be asked to immediately leave Ramsey County property.

8.00 Violations and Penalties

A. **Citations.** Where appropriate, the preferred method of enforcement will be a request for voluntary compliance. Whenever any person authorized to issue administrative citations for the violation of law, discovers a violation of this ordinance, an administrative citation may be issued to the person alleged to have committed the violation. The administrative citation will be issued to the person charged with the violation, or in the case of a corporation or municipality, to any officer or agent authorized to accept such issuance.

B. **Civil administrative fine.** Any person who violates this Ordinance by smoking or engaging in commercial tobacco use anywhere it is prohibited, and who does not immediately stop when asked to, may be issued an administrative citation according to the Ramsey County Administrative Ordinance. Fine amounts vary depending on violation. Refer to the Ramsey County Smoking and Commercial Tobacco Use Ordinance Violations Fine Schedule for detailed amounts.

C. **Proprietors.** Any proprietor, person or entity that owns, leases, manages, operates or otherwise controls the use of an area in which smoking and commercial tobacco product use is prohibited, and that knowingly does not comply with this Ordinance, may be issued a civil penalty. Fine amounts vary depending on violation. Refer to the Ramsey County Smoking and Commercial Tobacco Use Ordinance Violations Fine Schedule for detailed amounts.

D. **Repeat violations.** Each day a violation occurs or continues will be considered a separate offense. Repeat or ongoing offenses may result in an administrative citation per day, as well as trespass from Ramsey County property.

E. **Ramsey County licensees.** Failure to comply with this Ordinance may be a basis for adverse action for licenses issued under Ramsey County ordinances.

9.00 Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of the Ordinance. The Board of Commissioners hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid.

10.00 Previous Ordinance

Upon the Effective Date of this Ordinance, the Ramsey County Clean Indoor Air Ordinance, B2015-302, adopted September 22, 2015, effective November 29, 2015, is repealed.

11.00 Effective Date

This amendment of the Ordinance will be effective on August 26, 2022.