

HELPFUL LINKS

Tobacco Free Kids:

www.tobaccofreekids.org

Montgomery County Alcohol
Beverage Services

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/abs

Responsible Tobacco Retailer
Program

<https://health.maryland.gov/notobaccosalestominors/Pages/home.aspx>

Department of Assessment and
Taxation

www.dat.state.md.us

We Card Organization

www.wecard.org

LET US BE A RESOURCE TO YOU!

If you have any tobacco
related issues, questions or
to set up a free training
please contact us!

RESPONSIBLE TOBACCO RETAILING GUIDE

Alcohol Beverage Services

Division of Licensure, Education and Regulation
201 Edison Park Drive | Gaithersburg, MD 20878
240-777-1999

ABSLicensing@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov



ABS
ALCOHOL BEVERAGE SERVICES

DID YOU KNOW?

- The average age of a first time smoker is 14.
- Smoking a pack of cigarettes a day costs about \$2,000 a year.
- Approximately 440,000 Americans die each year from tobacco related illnesses. 53,000 die of secondhand smoke.
- 80% of Americans who die of tobacco related disease began smoking before the age of 18.

WHAT ARE TOBACCO PRODUCTS?

Tobacco products include cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff or any product containing tobacco.

IT'S THE LAW! MARYLAND STATE LAW...

Prohibits tobacco retailers from selling any tobacco product to anyone under 21 years old.

Prohibits having self-service tobacco products. All tobacco products must be placed behind the counter.

Requires a valid cigarette license visibly posted on the premises.

DO'S & DONT'S IN TOBACCO RETAILING

Do...

- Ask for a valid ID during each tobacco transaction.
- Ask for a second form of ID if in doubt.
- Consider an ID scanner, age verifier register or use ID books and calendars at the register.
- Talk to all employees about tobacco laws, policies and consequences.
- Post anti-smoking signs under 21 years old at point of sale and on doors.

Don't...

- Try to guess a purchaser's age.
- Assume staff can read IDs. Train them!
- Place tobacco in a self-service area.
- Accept a purchaser's word that they are 21 or older.
- Allow an employee under 21 years of age to sell tobacco unattended.

5 VALID FORMS OF ID

- State issued identification card.
- Driver's license.
- Military ID.
- Resident alien card.
- US passport.

ENFORCEMENT

Tobacco retailers may be inspected in 30 to 90 day intervals and are subject to the following fines:

First Offense

Up to \$500

Second Offense

Up to \$750.

Third Offense

Up to \$750 with the option of 5 to 180 days of license suspension.

Fourth Offense

Up to \$750 and possible revocation of license.