Sec. 24-9C. Distribution of tobacco products to minors.

(a) Definitions. In this Section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(1) Tobacco product means any substance containing tobacco, including cigarettes, cigars, smoking tobacco, snuff, or smokeless tobacco.

(2) Distribute means to:

(A) give away, sell, deliver, dispense, or issue;

(B) offer to give away, sell, deliver, dispense, or issue; or

(C) cause or hire any person to give away, sell, deliver, dispense, or issue or offer to give away, sell, deliver, dispense, or issue.

(b) Unlawful distribution.

(1) A person engaged in the business of selling or otherwise distributing tobacco products for commercial purposes must not:

(i) distribute any tobacco product to a minor, unless the minor is acting solely as the agent of the minor's employer who is engaged in the business of distributing tobacco products;

(ii) distribute cigarette rolling papers to a minor; or

(iii) distribute to a minor a coupon redeemable for any tobacco product.

(2) A person, who is not a person described under paragraph (b)(1), must not:

(i) buy for or sell to a minor any tobacco product; or

(ii) deliver or sell to a minor cigarette rolling papers.

(c) Subsection (b) does not apply to the distribution of a coupon which is redeemable for any tobacco product when the coupon is contained in a newspaper, a magazine, or any other type of publication in which the coupon is incidental to the primary purpose of the publication, or sent through the mail.

(d) A person has not violated this Section if:

(1) that person examined a driver's license or another valid identification issued by an employer, a government entity, or an institution of higher education; and

(2) that license or other identification positively identified the buyer or recipient of a tobacco product as at least 18 years old.
(e) If a minor bought a tobacco product from a vending machine, this Section does not apply to the owner of the vending machine or any other person with control over the vending machine.

(f) A person who violates this Section liable for a class A civil violation. (1998 L.M.C., ch. 15, § 1.)