



# The Smoke-Free Arizona Act Newsletter

February 2011  
Volume 2 Issue 1

## The 20 Foot Rule: What everyone should know

Per the Smoke-Free Arizona Act, A.R.S. 36-601.01 ("the Act"), a proprietor should not permit smoking within 20 feet of a public place or place of employment's entrances, open windows, or ventilation systems unless defined differently by a local ordinance.



The purpose of the 20 foot rule is to prevent smoke from entering into areas where smoking is prohibited.

## Outdoor Patios and the 20 Foot Rule

Outdoor patios are one of the seven exemptions of the Act and therefore smoking is allowed on outdoor patios. If an outdoor patio is less than 20 feet from any entrance, open window, or ventilation system of an establishment, smoking is still allowed, but only if the proprietor uses a method that:

- Provides a smoke-free entrance into the establishment
- Does not permit tobacco smoke to drift into the establishment through entrances, open windows, ventilation systems, or other means

If an outdoor patio of a public place or place of employment is located within 20 feet of any entrance, open window, or ventilation system, smoking is allowed anywhere on this outdoor patio as long as tobacco smoke does not enter into the enclosed area.

In order to prevent smoke from drifting into the establishment, some proprietors have chosen to use methods or a combination of methods such as, but not limited to, air curtains, physical barriers, fans, or blowers. Please keep in mind that these methods are only examples and not a requirement of the Act.

Many proprietors of public places and places of employment in Arizona are choosing to provide smoke-free areas for their visitors, employees, and other patrons. The Act allows proprietors to declare an entire outdoor patio as non-smoking.

## Modifying or Building an Outdoor Patio

Business owners with food and / or liquor licenses should consider contacting the county health department, the Department of Liquor Licenses and Control, the local building department, and any other applicable authorities before modifying or building a new outdoor smoking patio. Other business owners should also consider contacting any applicable authorities.

For More Information or to Report a Violation  
Visit: [smokefreearizona.org](http://smokefreearizona.org)  
Call: 1-877-4-AZNSMOKE (1-877-429-6676)  
Email: [nosmokingarizona@azdhs.gov](mailto:nosmokingarizona@azdhs.gov)



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