

Totally Healthy

Totally Tobacco-free



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PROMOTING CARING COMMUNITIES FOR OUR ISLAND'S HEALTHY FUTURE

SELLING TOBACCO: Fact Sheet for Vendors and Sales Clerks

Stop the sale; prevent the addiction.

Guam has one of the highest youth smoking rates in the Region. In 2003, one in four Middle School students reported smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days.

Tobacco kills. About half of all deaths on Guam are tobacco-related.

Reducing access to cigarettes is one element of a comprehensive approach to help prevent tobacco use among Guam's children.

According to **Guam Public Law 24-278 (Tobacco Control Act of 1998)**, it is against the law to sell tobacco products to persons under the age of 18.

Penalties are stiff:

1. **1st Violation - \$500.00** (in any 5-year period)
2. **2nd Violation - \$1000, AND Vendor's license suspended for 90 days**
3. **3rd Violation - \$2500, AND Vendor's license suspended for 180 days**
4. **4 or more Violations - \$5000** (in any 5-year period), **AND license revoked**; Vendor ineligible to apply for a license for 2 years

Tips to avoid breaking the law

1. Always request for identification from anyone you believe to be under the age of 27. Never guess someone's age or assume that they are over 18.
2. If tobacco products are behind the counter, ask for a valid photo ID before retrieving tobacco products.
3. Ask for a photo ID before you ring up a sale.
4. Only sell tobacco products to those who are 18 years old and older.
5. Without a valid photo ID, the law prohibits you from selling tobacco products.

**Tobacco:
ILLEGAL
under 18;
LETHAL
at any age.**

6. Preferably, **keep tobacco products behind the counter** to prevent easy access by minors.

"Of course it's addictive. That's why you smoke."
Tobacco company executive