

Smoke-Free Campus Ordinance FAQs

Q: Why has Placer County gone smoke-free?

A: We wish to promote a healthy environment for employees and visitors. Approximately 42,000 people die each year in the U.S. due to diseases caused by secondhand smoke.

Q: What assistance and/or cessation services does Placer County provide?

A: Staff and clients can take advantage of many resources listed at www.placer.ca.gov/smokefree. Many insurance plans offer coverage from counseling to quitting aids such as patches, gum or lozenges. There are also classes and other resources.

Q: What does a smoke-free campus ordinance entail?

A: The Placer County Government Center, including all county-owned and leased properties, is now smoke-free, with the exception of three interim designated smoking areas. A map is available at www.placer.ca.gov/smokefree. This includes sidewalks, parking lots and personal vehicles on the property.

“Smoking” is defined to mean the inhaling, exhaling, or burning any lighted, heated, or ignited cigar, cigarette, cigarillo, pipe, hookah, electronic smoking device or any plant product intended for human inhalation, whether the item is natural or synthetic and whether or not it contains nicotine. This includes e-cigarettes.

The interim designated smoking areas will be phased out by October 2021. County staff intends to recommend for Board approval at a later date that other Placer County campuses and service locations located in Roseville, Auburn, North Auburn, Newcastle, Tahoe City, Kings Beach and Carnelian Bay become smoke-free as well by June 2021.

Q: Is this ordinance just for Placer County employees?

A: No. The ordinance applies to all individuals, including employees, volunteers, residents, visitors and contractors who work in or visit the Placer County Government Center.

Q: When did the smoking ordinance go into effect?

A: September 27, 2018.

Q: How is the ordinance enforced?

A: It is the intent of the ordinance that enforcement be achieved primarily through education, awareness, and a spirit of cooperation. Signage and stickers have been placed around the campus along with cessation resources. Information is available online at www.placer.ca.gov/smokefree. However, violators can also be cited for violating the ordinance.

Q: What should I do if I see someone violating the ordinance?

A: There are several ways to let a visitor, contractor, or employee know about the policy. You can distribute resource card available at www.placer.ca.gov/smokefree; politely tell them about the smoke-free policy and where the interim designated smoking areas are; or report the situation to our anonymous online reporting tool which is also available at www.placer.ca.gov/smokefree. Individuals who notice violations of the policy are expected to remain non-confrontational and respectful of all members of our campus community when communicating the policy.