

SMOKING ON CAMPUS

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees authorize the administration to conform to the Smoke Free Illinois Act (410 ILCS 82/1 *et seq.*) and to limit smoking on campus to only designated parking lots and courtyards.

Dr. David A. Sam, President

Background

Elgin Community College conforms to the Smoke Free Illinois Act (410 ILCS 82/1 *et seq.*). The Act prohibits smoking in a public place or any place of employment. The ban also extends 15 feet out from any entrance to a public place or place of employment and from entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes that serve an enclosed area where smoking is prohibited. The Act also outlaws smoking in any vehicle owned, leased, or operated by the State or a political subdivision. Employers or those in control of public places may opt to prohibit smoking above and beyond the mandatory non-smoking areas created by the Act.

The College has tried to balance the rights of students, employees, community members, smokers and nonsmokers, with our responsibility as providers of educational services and has determined that a smoke-free environment is preferred to eliminate any possible threat to nonsmokers of inhaling second-hand smoke; therefore, the College's recommend procedure is more restrictive than the Act.

Procedure:

Smoking is prohibited in any College facility or vehicle leased or owned by the College. Smoking is also prohibited in College athletic fields and playgrounds. Smoking will be allowed in designated parking lots and designated courtyards adjacent to VPAC (across from Culinary Arts department), between MSC and SRC (across from O & M department), and SRC (on the north side of the SRC entrance across from parking lot 1). Smoking materials, such as cigarettes or pipes, shall be extinguished prior to leaving designated smoking parking lots or courtyards. Parking lots in which smoking is allowed are lots 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,11, and 12. Smoking is not allowed in lots 10, 13-19, and the Fountain Square Campus Staff Lot.

“No Smoking” signs will be clearly and conspicuously posted in each place covered by the Act. Signage advising students, employees, and visitors of the designated areas (parking lots & specific courtyards) in which either smoking is allowed or not allowed shall be posted in visible areas, especially cross-walks.

Ashtrays or ash containers will be provided at curb lines of designated parking lots at main crossing areas and fifteen feet from doorways in designated courtyards. All other ashtrays or ash containers will be removed where smoking is prohibited.

The College may offer periodic smoking cessation classes through the Employee Assistance Program and/or the Student Assistance Program.

This procedure will be communicated via the College catalog, internet, intranet, signage, and brochures and may be communicated via student newspapers and newsletters.

Enforcement of this Procedure:

The Act's enforcement provisions allow the Illinois Department of Public Health ("IDPH"), certified local public health departments and local law enforcement agencies to assess fines for, and any person may complain to these entities about, violations of the Act.

Anyone who smokes in an area designated smoke-free by the Act can be fined from \$100 to \$250. Enforcement provisions and monetary fines for violations will be based on the Smoke Free Illinois Act.

Violation of Elgin Community College's non-smoking zones will be dealt with as follows:

1. Students will be disciplined in the same manner as with any other College rule or policy violation, which may include expulsion.
2. Employees will be disciplined in the same manner as with any other work-rule violation, which may include termination.
3. Campus visitors who violate this procedure will be dealt with appropriately by the Elgin Community College Police Department, depending upon the situation. Campus visitors will be verbally warned, banned from the campus, or escorted off College property by the Elgin Community College Police Department, if applicable.
4. All employees, students, or visitors violating the Act, will be subject to a monetary fine, should law enforcement officers or the health department become involved in the enforcement of the procedure.

Enforcement will be in response to complaints. The Elgin Community College Police Department will first contact the individual violating the procedure in an effort to inform them about the Smoke Free Illinois Act and the College's non-smoking zones. When necessary, written warning notices will be issued. Further action will be taken only when there is continued failure to comply with the Act and this administrative procedure.

The procedure and non-smoking zones will be annually reviewed.

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