

NO SMOKING

Health Act 2006

Under the Health Act 2006, Chapter 28, Part 1, Chapter 1, “enclosed” or “substantially enclosed” premises that are open to the public are designated as “smoke-free”. This means that it is illegal to smoke, or to allow smoking, to take place in them. The law took effect on 1st July 2007.

“No Smoking” Signs

However under the Health Act 2006, Chapter 28, Part 1, Chapter 1, Section 6, persons responsible for premises that are open to the public are required, by law, to ensure that “No Smoking” signs are displayed.

- The signs should be displayed at every entrance to the building
- The signs should be no smaller than A5 (149mm x 210mm)
- The signs should display
 - The “No Smoking” symbol
 - The Words “NO SMOKING – It is against the law to smoke in these premises”

Suitable signs can be obtained from most stationery suppliers or [click here](#) for an electronic version of the “No Smoking Sign”

No Smoking Policy

Additionally, persons responsible for premises that are open to the public are required to have a written “No Smoking Policy”. In the context of churches, we suggest that the policy should:

- Identify those persons who have responsibility for its implementation
- State the procedures to be followed in the event of non-compliance

The simplest policy is likely to state that smoking is not allowed on the church premises, that the deacons and activity leaders are responsible for ensuring compliance, and that in the event of somebody being caught smoking they will be asked to extinguish it or leave the premises - failing which, the police will be called. Churches that have contact with persons who are likely to be caught smoking on the premises would need to refine the policy to handle the issue in an appropriate manner, perhaps including a section directing them to resources that could help them to quit.

FS\NS\04\08