



Tobacco Free Grounds Policy

Adopted: February 9, 2016

POLICY STATEMENT

The use of tobacco products and electronic delivery devices is prohibited at all times in or on all property that Rice County has the authority to control, unless designated otherwise under "Exceptions."

DEFINITIONS

"All times" means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Electronic Delivery Device" means any product containing or delivering nicotine, lobelia, or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or any other substance through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the product. The term includes any such devices, whether they are manufactured, distributed, marketed or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes or under any other product name or descriptor.

"Property" means all facilities, vehicles, grounds and other property owned, leased, rented, contracted, used, or controlled by Rice County.

"Smoking" means inhaling or exhaling from any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other tobacco or plant product, or inhaling or exhaling aerosol or vapor from any electronic delivery device. Smoking shall include being in possession of a lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, or an electronic delivery device that is turned on or is otherwise activated.

"Staff" means any person employed by Rice County in a full or part-time capacity, or any position contracted for or otherwise employed, with direct or indirect monetary wages or profits paid by Rice County, or any person working on a volunteer basis. The term includes, but is not limited to: elected and appointed officials, personnel, contractors, consultants, and vendors.

"Tobacco Product" means any product containing, made, derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, including but not limited to cigarettes; cigars; cheroots; stogies; perique; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine cut and other chewing tobaccos; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco; and other kinds and forms of tobacco.

"Tobacco Use" means the act of smoking, the use of smokeless tobacco, or the use of any other tobacco product in any form, including the use of electronic delivery devices.

"Visitor" means any person subject to this policy who is not Rice County staff.

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all visitors and staff on Rice County property.

Organizers and attendees at public or private events on Rice County property are required to abide by this policy. Event organizers are also responsible for communicating and enforcing this policy.

This policy also applies to private vehicles parked on Rice County parking lots.

EXCEPTIONS

Property area exceptions:

- Rice County owned parks and campgrounds
- Rice County Fairgrounds (Subject to Rice County Fair Board Policies)

It is not a violation of this policy to use a product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

It is not a violation of this policy for a Native American to use tobacco on Rice county property as part of a traditional Native American spiritual or cultural ceremony. Approval from Rice County Administration must be requested and received prior to the ceremony.

DISSEMINATION

Signage will be posted at strategic locations to notify staff and visitors of this policy.

CESSATION

Rice County Public Health will be a resource for information regarding cessation programs and services.

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

The success of this policy depends on the consideration and cooperation of both tobacco-users and non-users. Enforcement of this policy is a shared responsibility of all staff. Individuals acting in violation of this policy will be reminded and asked to comply. Staff found to have violated this policy may be subject to disciplinary action. Visitors who violate this policy may be asked to leave the property.

The Rice County Tobacco Free Grounds Policy shall be effective as of May 1, 2016.