



# New Local Law to Raise the Legal Age for Purchase of Tobacco Products in Cattaraugus County to 21

## **Why did Cattaraugus County pass this law?**

Cattaraugus County currently holds the third highest smoking rate in the state with 28.4% of the adult population admitting to smoking. Among young people who try tobacco, the transition from experimental to regular smoking occurs around age 20. By increasing the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products, more of Cattaraugus County youth will reach adulthood without legally becoming addicted to nicotine.

## **What products does this law apply to?**

This law prohibits retailers from selling cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, powdered tobacco, shisha, bidis, gutka, and other tobacco products; nicotine water, herbal cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, liquid nicotine, snuff, rolling papers, smoking paraphernalia, and other products which are prohibited from being sold to minors by New York State Public Health Law Article 13-F, to people under 21.

## **Will new signage be required for stores in Cattaraugus County?**

Yes. All retailers that sell cigarettes, other tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, herbal cigarettes, shisha, pipes, rolling papers or smoking paraphernalia are required to post—in a place highly visible to customers—a sign that complies with Cattaraugus County local law on informing customers of the minimum sales age for these items. Signs will be available at Cattaraugus County Health Department, 1 Leo Moss Drive, Olean, NY.

## **What are the penalties for a violation?**

Any violation of New York State Public Health Law, Article 13-F or Cattaraugus County Local Law No. 8-2016 can result in fines of a minimum of three hundred dollars, but not to exceed one thousand dollars for a first violation, and a minimum of five hundred dollars, but not to exceed one thousand five hundred dollars for each subsequent violation, unless a different penalty is otherwise provided.

## **When does this law go into effect?**

This law takes effect on November 1, 2016.

## **How will this law be enforced?**

It will be enforced by the Cattaraugus County Health Department.

## **How can you see the actual law?**

Visit: <http://www.cattco.org/downloads/health/laws-regulating-tobacco-nicotine-products>

## **What if I have questions or need more information?**

Call the Cattaraugus County Health Department at 716-701-3391 ask for information about Tobacco 21.



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