

Ohio voters passed Issue 5 on November 7, 2006, creating Ohio's indoor smoking ban under a new chapter of the Ohio Revised Code effective December 7, 2006. This new law requires that "public places" and "places of employment" prohibit smoking in "enclosed areas". The law will be administered by the Ohio Department of Health.

The University revised its smoking policy earlier this year, but the statute will require some changes. Garages and smoking enclosures fall under the definition of "enclosed area" in the law, and smoking in those areas will no longer be permitted.

Designated smoking areas in parking garages and smoking enclosures will be eliminated. Employees may not continue to smoke in those areas.

In addition to possible disciplinary sanctions that might result from violating the University policy, the statute provides for monetary fines to the institution and the individual violator.

Pursuant to University policy 10-17-06, smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of entrances, exits, windows and air intakes. For those employees who do smoke, ash trays and receptacles are provided pursuant to the policy.

For more information, go to <http://www.odh.state.oh.us/alerts/ohiosmokingban.aspx>.

To view the University policy, go to www.uc.edu/trustees/rules.

For information regarding smoking cessation or if you have any questions, please call Bill Johnson, Senior Director of Policy Development & Analysis and Employee Relations, at 556-6372.

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