

Eliminating the Sale of Tobacco to Kids

Tips for Clerks

- It is illegal to sell, distribute or furnish cigarettes, chewing tobacco, or any other tobacco product to anyone under the age of 18 years in New Jersey.
- Both clerks and store owners can receive fines and penalties for selling tobacco products to youth under the age of 18.
- State law requires identification (ID) to be checked prior to selling tobacco to a young person. Request picture ID from anyone purchasing tobacco that appears to be under the age of 27.
- Do not feel rushed about checking ID, no matter how many people are in line. It is your job to make sure that you do not sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18.
- Checking ID from anyone purchasing tobacco who appears to be under the age of 27 is the best way to make sure that tobacco is not sold to youth under the age of 18. Remember that height, build, facial hair, make-up, clothing, and attitude may lead you to assume teens are older than they are.
- Investigators from the Vineland Department of Health are checking businesses to see if they are complying with state law. Teenagers, 14 or 17 years of age, will go with the investigators and attempt to buy tobacco products.
- A hotline number is available for the public to report illegal sales of tobacco to youth who appear to be under the age of 18 to the Cumberland County Department of Health 856-453-2160.
- Remember tobacco products may not be sold to a youth under the age of 18 even if the youth states it is for a parent or presents a note from a parent or guardian.
- If customers, friends, or family complain about the policy, explain that state law prohibits the sale of tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18, and there are penalties for not complying with the law.
- Ask your manager or store owner for special training regarding the prevention of illegal sales of tobacco to youth under the age of 18.