

# Smoking Restrictions Connecticut

## Overall Summary of Smoking Restrictions

Smoking is prohibited in many public places, specifically including: state and local government buildings; any area of a health care institution; any area of a retail food store; any restaurant; any bar/tavern; within a school building while school is in session or student activities are being conducted; any passenger elevator; in any dormitory of any public or private institution of higher education; and any dog racing track or off-track betting facility. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any smoking area in any building.

CONN. GEN. STAT. §§ 19a-342 & 31-40q (2003); and CT ADMIN CODE §§ 19a-79-7(d)(6) & 19a-87b-9 (1993).

## Exceptions to the Law

Exceptions to the law include: 1) correctional facilities; 2) designated smoking areas in psychiatric facilities; 3) public housing projects; 4) classrooms where demonstration smoking is taking place as part of a medical or scientific experiment or lesson; 5) smoking rooms provided by employers pursuant to section 31-40q Connecticut General Statutes, 6) outdoor areas of restaurants subject to certain conditions; and 7) tobacco bars as defined. The operator of a hotel, motel or similar lodging may allow guests to smoke in not more than 25 percent of their rooms.

CONN. GEN. STAT. § 19a-342 (2003).

## Stronger Local Laws on Smoking

Stronger local laws/ordinances further restricting smoking are specifically not allowed, see below.

The provisions of the state law restricting smoking shall supersede and preempt the provisions of any municipal law or ordinance relative to smoking effective prior to, on, or after October 1, 1993.

CONN. GEN. STAT. §§ 19a-342 & 31-40q (2003).

## Government Buildings

No person shall smoke in any building or portion of any building owned or leased and operated by the state or any political subdivision thereof.

CONN. GEN. STAT. § 19a-342 (2003).

## Private Workplaces

Each employer with fewer than five employees in a business facility shall establish one or more work areas where smoking is prohibited, sufficient to accommodate nonsmokers who request to utilize such an area. Signs shall be posted to clearly designate the boundaries of each nonsmoking area. In the areas within the business facility where smoking is permitted, existing physical barriers and ventilation systems shall be used to the extent practicable to minimize the effect of smoking