

Totally Healthy

Totally Tobacco-free



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
PROMOTING CARING COMMUNITIES FOR OUR ISLAND'S HEALTHY FUTURE

# SELLING TOBACCO: Fact Sheet for Vendors and Sales Clerks

## Stop the sale; prevent the addiction.

Guam has one of the highest youth smoking rates in the Region. In 2005, 1 out of 3 high school students and 1 out of 6 middle school students reported smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days.\*

**Tobacco kills.** About half of all deaths on Guam are tobacco-related.

**Reducing access to cigarettes** is one element of a comprehensive approach to help prevent tobacco use among Guam's children.

**Tobacco:  
ILLEGAL  
under 18;  
LETHAL  
at any age.**

According to **Guam Public Law 24-278 (Tobacco Control Act of 1998)**, it is **against the law to sell tobacco products to persons under the age of 18.**

### Penalties are stiff:

1. **1<sup>st</sup> Violation - \$500.00** (in any 5-year period)
2. **2<sup>nd</sup> Violation - \$1,000, AND Vendor's license suspended for 90 days**
3. **3<sup>rd</sup> Violation - \$2,500, AND Vendor's license suspended for 180 days**
4. **4 or more Violations - \$5,000** (in any 5-year period), **AND license revoked**; Vendor ineligible to apply for a license for **2 years**

\*Source: YRBS, 1999-2005

## Tips to avoid breaking the law

1. Do not sell tobacco products to anyone below 18 years of age.
2. Do not guess someone's age. Request for identification from anyone you believe to be under the age of 27.
3. Ask for a valid photo ID before retrieving tobacco products and before you ring up the sale.
4. Preferably, keep tobacco products behind the counter to prevent easy access by minors.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Prevention & Training Branch at:  
**(671) 477-9079 thru 9083**  
[www.peaceguam.org](http://www.peaceguam.org)  
[www.healthchoicesguam.org](http://www.healthchoicesguam.org)  
[www.dmhsa.guam.gov](http://www.dmhsa.guam.gov)



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