



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

M. JODI REIL
GOVERNOR

THOMAS A. KIRK, JR., PH.D.
COMMISSIONER

May 2006

Dear Connecticut Tobacco Merchant:

In Connecticut it is illegal to sell, provide, or distribute tobacco products to youth under the age of 18. To avoid related criminal and/or civil fines, or the potential loss of retail licensure, tobacco merchants and their employees must **always ask for photo identification** if any individual's age is of question or if he or she looks younger than 27.

To assist youth in understanding and abiding by Connecticut's tobacco laws, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), is launching the third year of its campaign entitled:

Selling Tobacco to Minors Doesn't Make "Cents"
In Fact it May Cost You!

We have enclosed campaign materials for you and your employees including window clings and register decals. We encourage you to use these resources to help you: 1) understand and uphold the Connecticut tobacco laws; 2) prevent the sale or distribution of tobacco products to minors under the age of 18; and 3) prevent penalties that will negatively affect your business.

Our goal is to reduce youth tobacco use by preventing the access and sale of these products to minors. It is important that we work together to succeed in this goal through compliance checks at both over-the-counter and cigarette vending machines sites. We will be visiting your business in the near future for this purpose.

If you have any questions or need further information, please call our toll free line at 877-331-1999, or visit us online at www.dmhas.state.ct.us/TPEP.htm

Thank you in advance for your efforts in preventing the sale of tobacco products to minors under 18 in our state.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Kirk, Jr., Ph.D.
Commissioner

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