

# IN FACT, IT MAY COST YOU!

**The Connecticut  
General Statutes are clear  
and specific about the legal aspects of  
selling tobacco to minors.**

**Section 53-344(b). Sale of tobacco to  
minors under eighteen.**

(a) Any person who sells, gives or delivers to any minor under eighteen years of age tobacco, unless the minor is delivering or accepting delivery in his capacity as an employee, in any form shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars [\$200] for the first offense, not more than three hundred fifty dollars [\$350] for a second offense within an eighteen month period and not more than five hundred dollars [\$500] for each subsequent offense within an eighteen month period.



**DMHAS**  
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services  
A Healthcare Service Agency



**Sponsored by MATCH Coalition, Inc.**

This merchant education campaign is funded by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and administered by MATCH Coalition, Inc.

Si usted desea recibir un paquete de educación para vendedores de tabaco en Español, por favor de completar el formulario con su nombre, dirección y envíe a: **MATCH Coalition, Inc., 78 Beaver Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109**

También puede enviar un fax al siguiente número: **(860) 721-6999**, o puede conseguir la información visitando nuestra página de internet: **www.matchcoalition.com**.

SELLING  
TOBACCO  
TO MINORS  
DOESN'T  
MAKE  
"CENTS."



## Connecticut General Statutes

### **Section 53-344. Sale of tobacco. Proof of age.**

(a) Each retailer of cigarettes or tobacco products or employee of such retailer shall require a person who is purchasing or attempting to purchase cigarettes or tobacco products, whose age is in question, to exhibit proper proof of age. If a person fails to provide such proof of age, such retailer or employee shall not sell cigarettes or tobacco products to the person. Proper proof means a motor vehicle license, a valid passport or an identity card issued in accordance with the provisions of section 1-1h.

### **Section 12-289. Vending Machines; Placement Restrictions. Penalties.**

(a) No cigarette vending machine or restricted cigarette vending machine may be placed in an area, facility or business which is frequented primarily by minors. No cigarettes may be dispensed from any machine other than a cigarette vending machine or a restricted cigarette vending machine.

(b) A cigarette vending machine may be placed only in (1) an area, facility or business permitted under chapter 545 [Liquor Control Act] if the area, facility or business has a separate area accessible only to adults and the machine is placed in such area.

(c) The Commissioner of Revenue Services shall assess any person, dealer or distributor who violates the provisions of this section a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars [\$250] for a first violation and five hundred dollars [\$500] for a second violation within eighteen months. For a third violation within eighteen months, such penalty shall be five hundred dollars [\$500] and any such machine shall be immediately removed from such area, facility or business and no such machine may be placed in such area, facility or business for a period of one year following such removal.

### **Section 12-314. Packaging for sale. (Single cigarettes or loosies violations).**

(a) The sale of cigarettes other than in an unopened package containing twenty or more cigarettes originating with the manufacturer which bears the health warning required by law is prohibited.

### **Random inspections of sellers of tobacco products.**

The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and law enforcement agencies shall conduct random, unannounced inspections of tobacco retailers to insure compliance with all laws relating to sales of tobacco to minors. Violators are subject to the provisions of the above statutes.



**TOBACCO & MINORS.  
IT DOESN'T MAKE "CENTS."**