



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

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

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

May 2005

Dear Connecticut Tobacco Merchant:

In Connecticut it is illegal to sell, provide, or distribute tobacco products to youths 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 you in understanding and abiding by Connecticut's tobacco laws, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), is launching the second 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 to help you: 1) understand and uphold the Connecticut tobacco Laws; 2) prevent the provision, 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 check activities of both over-the-counter and cigarette vending machines to ensure that these products are not sold to minors. We will be visiting your business in the near future to do so.

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 age 18 in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Kirk, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas A. Kirk, Jr., Ph.D., Commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

(AC 860) 418-7000
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 341431 • Hartford, Connecticut 06134
www.dmhas.state.ct.us
An Equal Opportunity Employer