

7.0 TOBACCO FREE FACILITY

7.1 POLICY

On and after January 1, 2008, no employee or visitor to the facilities may smoke on Sheriff's Office property. The Washington County Sheriff's Office is concerned for the well being of its employees and visitors to its facilities.

The medical/science communities have accumulated a considerable amount of evidence that non-smokers are placed at potential severe health risk when exposed to inhalation of second-hand smoke.

Smoking is detrimental to physical assets of the Sheriff's Office as well, through the chemicals/film that is deposited on walls, carpets, and furnishings. Manufacturers of computer equipment also state that computers should be operated in a smoke-free environment to increase longevity.

7.2 PURPOSE

Medical evidence accumulated over a long period of time indicates that the use of any tobacco product is not conducive to good health and substantially increases the chances that tobacco users may be subject to a myriad of serious health problems. In light of the above, the Sheriff's Office strongly encourages employees to cease any use of tobacco products, smoke and non-smokeless alike.

Information on programs aimed at assisting persons who desire to stop the use of tobacco products may be obtained from the Washington County Health Department, the American Heart Association, or the American Cancer Society.

7.3 USE OF TOBACCO IN AGENCY VEHICLES

Employees may use tobacco products in an agency vehicle if:

- A. The vehicle is assigned to them, and
- B. Passenger(s) in the vehicle do not object.

7.4 ACTION FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ORDER

Personnel in violation of this order will be subject to progressive discipline.

7.5 AUTHORITY

This order is published in conjunction with the 1987 Washington County Commissioners Ordinance regulating use of tobacco products on county property, which was authorized by Article 23, Section 236B, of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Washington County Personnel Order, PR-25.