

## **MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SMOKING POLICY**

Health risks associated with smoking are well documented. Numerous studies have indicated that exposure to second-hand smoke is a significant risk to the non-smoker. In addition, smoke is offensive to many non-smokers and potentially debilitating to some individuals. Morgan State University is responsible for providing a safe environment for its students, employees and visitors. Consequently, it is hereby established as the policy of MSU to achieve an environment as close to smoke-free as practicably possible. Where the needs of persons who smoke and the need of nonsmokers to breathe smoke-free air conflict, the need to have smoke-free air shall have priority. This policy will in no way supersede State or local law, or any existing or future regulations established for fire, health or safety reasons.

### **DEFINITION**

**Smoking** is inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any type of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, or any other smoking equipment, whether filled with tobacco or any other type of material.

**Vehicle** means any device in, on or by which any individual or property is or might be transported.

**Building** means any facility where persons may enter.

### **PROVISIONS**

- A. Smoking is strictly prohibited in all University-owned and operated buildings, stadiums and outdoor events, and in all vehicles owned and operated by the University. Doorway areas and holding docks are considered part of the building.
- B. Smoking is strictly prohibited in Residence Halls. This includes private residence hall rooms, shared rooms where both occupants smoke, restrooms and common areas.
- C. Smoking is permitted only in areas outside of buildings. Such areas shall be a sufficient distance from any University-owned or operated building so as to prevent entering the building.

### **COMPLIANCE**

This policy relies on the thoughtfulness, consideration and cooperation of smokers and non-smokers for its success. It is the responsibility of all members of the University community to observe this smoke-free policy and remind others of their responsibility.

Visitors must observe this smoke-free policy. Department heads, building coordinators, and sponsors/hosts of University events are responsible for visitors' compliance with the University's smoke-free policy.

Complaints or concerns regarding this policy or disputes regarding its implementation should be referred to the appropriate supervisory personnel or in the case of students, to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

## **SANCTIONS**

The University reserves the right to impose, consistent with applicable provisions of state law and Morgan State University administrative rules, sanctions, including disciplinary actions, upon University faculty, staff and students who violate the policy.

Visitors who smoke will be requested to extinguish the cigarette, cigar, pipe, etc. and will be informed of the policy. Refusal to do so will constitute a violation of the policy and will result in appropriate sanctions, including but not limited to, removal from, or denial of re-admittance to, the building or event.

This policy supersedes any prior Morgan State University policy concerning smoking.