



## Smoke-free Entryway Law Assembly Bill (AB) 846 Fact Sheet

The Smoke-free Entryway Law which originated as Assembly bill (AB846) amends California Government Code Sections 7596-7598 to prohibit smoking within 20 feet of a main entrance, exit, and operable windows of all public buildings (buildings owned and occupied, or leased and occupied by the state, county, or city (as well as buildings on the campuses of the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU) and California community colleges, effective January 1, 2004. For the law to be effective, a sign must be posted describing the no smoking prohibition.



Assembly Bill 846 implies the law defines a public building as "...a building owned and occupied, or leased and occupied, by the state, a county, a city, and county, or a California community college district. The law applies to all state, county, and city government buildings. The law does NOT apply to privately owned buildings unless they are leased or occupied by a state, county, or city agency.

While no formal enforcement procedures are in place for this law, in order to achieve effective enforcement, the California Department of Health Services Tobacco Control Section (CDHS/TCS) strongly recommends that state, county, and local governments post appropriate signage concerning the law and move ash receptacles and urns at least 20 feet from main entrances, exits, and operable windows. Doing so will contribute to self-enforcement. The law does not provide state funding for signs. However signage may be obtained from your local Tobacco Control Program. Contact information for the **Kings County Tobacco Control Program is (559) 584-1411.**



This law was designed to protect the community from secondhand smoke (also called environmental tobacco smoke or **ETS**). This is smoke given off by the burning end of a tobacco product or smoke exhaled by the smoker. Secondhand smoke contains over 4,000 chemicals, at least 250 are known to be harmful, and 50 of these are known to cause cancer. These chemicals include arsenic, benzene, cadmium, chromium, nickel, and polonium-210. Inhaling secondhand smoke causes lung cancer in nonsmoking adults. Approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths occur each year among adult nonsmokers in the United States as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke. Children exposed to secondhand smoke are at an increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), ear infections, colds, pneumonia, bronchitis, and more severe asthma. Being exposed to secondhand smoke slows the growth of children's lungs and can cause them to cough, wheeze, and feel breathless. There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke.



The text of AB846 is available at [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab\\_0801-0850/ab\\_846\\_bill\\_20030908\\_chaptered.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0801-0850/ab_846_bill_20030908_chaptered.pdf).