

TOBACCO-FREE RESOLUTION (SAMPLE)



The *(Name of Municipality)* agrees to the adoption of the following resolution to create tobacco-free areas at local parks and playgrounds.

WHEREAS, in Pennsylvania, more than 858,000 young people are exposed to tobacco smoke pollution every day and the US Surgeon General has stated that there is NO SAFE LEVEL OF EXPOSURE, whether indoors or outdoors, and that children's exposure to second-hand smoke causes increased risk of sudden infant death syndrome, lower respiratory infections, middle ear diseases, more severe asthma, respiratory symptoms and slowed lung growth and is responsible for the premature deaths of over 430,000 Americans each year from lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory illness and other diseases; and

WHEREAS, secondhand smoke is responsible for over 50,000 deaths among nonsmokers each year; and

WHEREAS, tobacco kills more Americans each year than alcohol, cocaine, heroin, homicide, and suicide, accidents, fire and AIDS combined; and

WHEREAS, 80% of smokers started smoking before the age of 18, and the average initiation age is 12 years old; and

WHEREAS, everyday and estimated 3,900 young people under the age of 18 try their first cigarette and one-third of these children will die prematurely from tobacco related illnesses; and

WHEREAS, to help role model non-smoking behavior to children and youth; to provide children, youth and their families with a safe, smoke-free environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Council of the *(Municipality)*, County of _____, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as follows:

1. That the areas of *(name of parks and playgrounds)* within the *(Municipality)* where children are present shall be designated as tobacco-free;
2. Appropriate signage shall be posted to designate said tobacco-free areas;
3. The residents of *(Municipality)* shall be notified of this Resolution and the designation of the tobacco-free zones as stated herein;
4. Any person in violation of this Resolution shall be: (identify action to be taken or penalty to be imposed); and
5. Council hereby authorizes its elected and appointed officials to make periodic observations of tobacco-free areas to monitor compliance and promote awareness of this Resolution.

RESOLVED this _____ day of _____, 20XX

ATTEST: _____

EXAMINED and APPROVED as to form this _____ day of _____, 20XX