

INSTITUTIONAL DIRECTIVE 2-7

July 20, 2009

Title: Use of Tobacco Products on Campus

I. Background

The Surgeon General of the United States has declared that smoking tobacco is a significant health hazard. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has concluded that "passive smoking" (breathing in the smoke of others) poses a health risk to those breathing the tobacco smoke. Cancer, stroke, heart disease, fetal damage, and other health problems have all been linked to smoking. Medical research has also established clear evidence tying smokeless tobacco products to cancer. In addition, the disposal of residue from smokeless tobacco presents immediate sanitation problems and heightens the potential for transmission of pathogens. As a public educational agency, Piedmont Technical College must be a leader in informing the public about the dangers of using such products, and must protect both students and employees from the possible harm associated with them.

II. Purpose

This directive is established for the purpose of creating and maintaining a healthy, comfortable, and productive study and work environment for students, faculty, and staff. This policy is based on the determination by the U.S. Surgeon General that the use of tobacco is linked to cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness, and respiratory illnesses for children when exposed *in utero* or to passive smoking in childhood.

III. Policy

It is the policy of Piedmont Technical College that the use of tobacco products is prohibited on any property or facility owned or under the direct control of the College

IV. Definitions

- A. Smoking is defined as the use of a burning tobacco product that results in the production of smoke.
- B. Smokeless tobacco products are defined as chewing tobacco, snuff, and any other tobacco derivative.

V. Guidelines

- A. A brief version of this policy will appear in the PTC catalog and other appropriate college publications.
- B. PTC's Health/Wellness Committee will offer programs to any individuals who wish to quit smoking or using other tobacco products.
- C. Tobacco use is also prohibited in all college owned vehicles.

Office of Responsibility: President

VII. Penalties

Any person who willfully violates the provisions of this regulation shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the college public safety office.

A. College employees or students abusing this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Students abusing this policy will be subject to the provisions of the Student Code for the South Carolina Technical College System found in the PTC Student Handbook.

B A written warning/ticket may be issued to anyone using tobacco products in a prohibited area. All complaints should be sent to the Public Safety Office. The warning and/or ticket may be issued by a public safety officer or a security officer of the college. A copy of the warning/ticket will be given to the violator. For employees that violate this policy, Public Safety will send a computer generated report of violators to Human Resources and the Business Office. For students that violate this policy, a computer generated report will be sent by Public Safety to the Dean of Students and the Business Office.

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