

29 TOBACCO USE

29.1 Description

Gaston County recognizes the health risks associated with tobacco use and secondhand smoke and aerosol for non-users. Gaston County is committed to providing a safe work environment for employees, volunteers, contractors, and the public and seeks to promote healthy environments in all of its buildings, parks, and vehicles. The Gaston County Board of Commissioners has passed an ordinance prohibiting the use of tobacco products in local government buildings, grounds, vehicles, parks and indoor public places.

29.2 Definitions

29.2.1 Electronic Cigarette or E-cigarette

An electronic oral device that employs a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit regardless of shape or size and that can be used to heat a liquid nicotine solution or any other substance, and the use or inhalation of which simulates smoking. The term shall include any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, or under any other product name or descriptor.

29.2.2 Smoking

The use of a lighted cigarette, lighted cigar, lighted pipe, or any other lighted tobacco product including Electronic Cigarettes.

29.2.3 Tobacco or Tobacco Product

Any product containing or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, or ingested by any other means, including but not limited to cigarettes; e-cigarettes; cigars; little cigars; snuff; and chewing tobacco. A tobacco product excludes any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose. Electronic Cigarettes are also considered to be a Tobacco Product.

29.3 Tobacco Use Prohibited

The use of all tobacco or tobacco products, is prohibited in local government buildings, grounds, vehicles, parks and indoor public places.

Tobacco use is prohibited along any path-way or walk-way leading to entrances of County buildings.

In instances where County buildings are not on County owned property, tobacco use is prohibited within a 50 foot radius of the building.

29.4 Smoking Areas

Gaston County no longer provides smoking areas for employees or members of the public.

29.5 Tobacco Cessation

Gaston County will provide programs and assistance to the extent of its ability to help employees quit tobacco use.

29.6 Policy Violations

Violation of the tobacco use policy will be considered misconduct as defined in this policy manual and subject to disciplinary action.