



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY
Health Department

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**LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY ISSUES FIRST WARNING LETTER FOR
VIOLATION OF THE MONTANA CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACT**

- Montana CIAA protects Montanans right to breathe clean air and supports public health by prohibiting smoking in any enclosed public place or workplace.

HELENA, MONTANA—The Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department issued its first warning letter for a violation of the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act on October 21, 2009. The warning letter was sent to Sandy Jones, the owner of Best Bet Casino (1225 Euclid), and cited “evidence of smoking (ashtrays, cigarette butts, etc) in an enclosed public place.”

The Montana Clean Indoor Air Act protects the right to breathe clean air for all Montanans and supports public health by prohibiting smoking in any enclosed public place or workplace. As part of the law, businesses must also post no-smoking signs that are clearly visible at all public entrances.

According to Health Officer, Melanie Reynolds, “The Health Department emphasizes the importance of this public health law and is serious about enforcement.”

A person who owns, manages, operates or otherwise controls a public place or workplace and fails to comply with the provisions of the Clean Indoor Air Act is guilty of a misdemeanor after a third violation within a 3-year period. Business owners, managers, or operators who violate the Clean Indoor Act will receive a written warning for the first violation, a written reprimand for a second violation and, within any 3 year period, a fine of \$100 for a third violation, \$200 for a fourth violation and \$500 for a fifth or subsequent violation.

According to Reynolds, “The citizens of Helena lead the way in supporting clean indoor air policy and the majority of businesses here have been compliant with the law. Our goal is to ensure that all businesses are held to the same standards; providing healthy, smokefree environments for patrons and employees.”

To report a violation of the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act, you can visit www.tobaccofree.mt.gov or contact the Lewis and Clark County Tobacco Use Prevention Program at 457-8924 or 447-8363.

Become informed: To read and download the full language of the law visit:
http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/mca_toc/50_40_1.htm

The mission of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis and Clark County residents.