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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Del Norte County's New Smokefree Multi-Unit Housing Ordinance

[Crescent City, - 06/01/2023] - Del Norte County has taken a significant step to safeguard its residents from the dangers of secondhand smoke in multi-unit residences. The new smoke-free multi-unit housing ordinance, effective July 1st, 2023 for the unincorporated areas of Del Norte County will require that all apartments, duplexes, condos, and other multi-unit dwellings as defined by Del Norte County Code (9.12.70) no longer allow smoking within units, common areas, or within 25 feet of designated non-smoking areas. This ordinance requires that lease and rental agreements be updated to reflect these new provisions and that property owners post 'no smoking' signage where necessary. The new ordinance also allows property owners to designate outdoor smoking areas, should they choose to.

Secondhand smoke exposure in homes and multi-unit dwellings with shared walls can pose a risk to many people and children, especially those with underlying medical conditions such as asthma or other chronic health conditions. The Del Norte County Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPP) provides resources and information for both community members and property owners or managers of multi-unit housing complexes to assist in curbing exposure to secondhand smoke and implementing the current and upcoming smoke-free multi-unit housing ordinances adopted in both Crescent City and the unincorporated Del Norte County.

In a public opinion survey conducted by TUPP with over 130 Del Norte County residents in October 2022, over 60% of respondents reported having been exposed to secondhand smoke or vapor within the community. Of those living within a multi-unit housing property, 60% reported having smelled smoke (tobacco, marijuana, or vape aerosol) inside their home. And over 90% of respondents believed that secondhand smoke and tobacco products, including flavored products, are harmful to their health and the health of youth.

If property owners or managers need support during this transition, TUPP, a program of the Del Norte County Department of Health and Human Services – Public Health Branch – can provide

sample lease agreements, tips for enforcement, distribute free no smoking signs, and provide education and information for tenants and management staff.

For free help to quit tobacco use, visit Kick It California at KICKITCA.ORG or call 1-800-300-8086. Kick It CA offers several options to assist anyone over the age of 13 to quit smoking, vaping, or chew. Their services are offered virtually, by phone, text, chat, apps, Alexa functions, in five different languages, and much more.

By implementing smoke-free policies and supporting property owners and managers, we can create a healthier community for all. For more information on the smoke-free multi-unit housing ordinance or to access support from TUPP, please contact Crystal Yang at 707-464-0861 or email crystal.yang@dnco.org.



NEW SMOKEFREE MULTIUNIT HOUSING ORDINANCE

Effective July 1st, 2023

The policy affecting Del Norte County multi-unit housing residents to protect children and vulnerable populations from secondhand smoke exposure, prohibits smoking in all units, all common areas, and at least 25 feet away from any defined nonsmoking area.



Building managers are advised to inform all tenants of the new smoke-free policy and to update all lease, or other rental agreements. After July 1st, 2023 these agreements are required to include clauses as stated in 9.12.90 of the Del Norte County Code (Ord. 2023-002).

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT TENANTS?

Multiunit residences are properties containing two or more units such as apartment buildings, duplexes, senior & assisted living facilities etc. (9.12.70)

All lease or rental agreements will need to be updated to reflect this new law. Landlords should inform all tenants of this by July 2023.

Smoking of any type (cigarettes, vaping, marijuana, etc.) is no longer allowed inside units, common areas, balconies, porches, or patios.

Should tenants breach the smoking provisions per the Del Norte County Code, Landlords may take reasonable steps for violations as stated in the County Code (9.12.80).

Smoke-free rules lead to safer homes including, healthier air for tenants, improved fire safety, and less damage to units. This no-smoking rule is not a "no-smoker" rule. Although we support choices not to smoke, those who do smoke/vape will simply have to step outside. We know this may be an inconvenience, but we appreciate your help!

NEED SIGNS?

Contact the Tobacco Use Prevention Program for free 'No Smoking' signs! Call **707-464-3191 ext 2831** or email: crystal.yang@dnco.org

For more resources visit:
<https://www.co.del-norte.ca.us/TUPP>

OPTIONAL DESIGNATED SMOKING AREA:

Property owners may designate a portion of an unenclosed area as a designated smoking area that meets all of the following criteria:

1. Is at least 25 feet from any unenclosed areas used by children and used for physical activity.
2. Is at least 25 feet from any defined nonsmoking area as stated per Chapter 9 of the Del Norte County Code.
3. Must be no more than 10% of the total unenclosed area of the multi-unit residence for which it is designated.
4. Must have a clearly marked perimeter.
5. Must be identified by conspicuous signs.
6. Must not overlap with any enclosed or unenclosed area where smoking is prohibited by this chapter or other law.

(For full details of the Smoke-Free Multiunit housing ordinance see Title 9, Chapter 12 of the Del Norte County Code)

For free help to quit visit [KickitCA.org](https://www.kickitca.org)

RESOURCES FOR LANDLORDS

Scan the QR code to access and download free resources to help landlords with enforcement of the smokefree multiunit housing (SFMUH) ordinance.



or visit: bit.ly/DNMUH23

Resources include:

- Del Norte County's SFMUH ordinance
- Crescent City's SFMUH ordinance
- Sample lease addendums and templates.
- Sample letters to notify tenants.
- Tips and information on enforcing a smokefree indoor environment.
- Printable 'No Smoking' signs. *Contact TUPP for free plastic or metal 'No Smoking' signs.*
- Free resources to quit tobacco use.

For additional information contact:

Crystal Yang

707-464-3191 ext 2831

crystal.yang@dnco.org

<https://www.co.del-norte.ca.us/TUPP>