California State Law

Sales to Minors - Selling tobacco/tobacco paraphernalia to a minor is illegal.

ID Check Requirement(s) - Retailers must check the ID of tobacco purchasers who appear to be under 21 years of age.

Signage Requirement(s) - Every store that sells tobacco must:
(1) Post a sign at each point of purchase saying that tobacco products may not be sold to minors (2) Have no more than 1/3 of windows/clear doors of covered with advertising (3) Have a “No Smoking” sign at each entrance.

Self-Service Sales - It is illegal to sell tobacco products/paraphernalia through a self-service display.

It is against the law to sell/distribute - (1) Single cigarettes, (2) bidis (hand-rolled filter-less cigarettes wrapped in tendu or temburni leaf), (3) cigarettes in packages of fewer than 20 cigarettes, (4) tobacco products in vending machine (unless it is in a bar at least 15 feet from any entrance).

Tobacco Retailer License - Tobacco retailers must be licensed by the State Board of Equalization.

For more information on State and Federal tobacco control laws, please visit: The Center for Tobacco Policy and Organizing

Areas where smoking is prohibited:

Workplaces - 100% of enclosed areas of employment with few exceptions.

State, County, and City Buildings - Within 20 feet of a main exit, entrance or operable window of a public/government building. This includes college and university campuses.

Tot Lots & Playgrounds - Within 25 feet of a public playground or tot lot, as is disposal of tobacco-related waste.

Schools - On district owned or leased, properties & vehicles.

Vehicles with Children - It is illegal to smoke or possess a lit tobacco product in any stationary or moving vehicle in which a person under age 21 is present.