Fact sheet on

alcohol, tobacco and nicotine

Knowledge

- Alcohol, tobacco and nicotine impact our body, our thinking and our actions.
- Some people should not consume alcohol, tobacco or nicotine, for instance children, teenagers and pregnant women.
- Alcohol, tobacco and nicotine can disrupt the physical and brain development of young people.
- Alcohol, tobacco and nicotine are a health risk for everyone, even in small quantities.

Laws

- No sale or distribution of alcohol to children under the age of 16.
- No sale or distribution of spirits, mixed drinks with spirits, products containing tobacco or nicotine, or electronic cigarettes to persons under the age of 18.
- No advertisement of alcohol, tobacco and nicotine aimed at children or teenagers.
- Each sales location must display a sign indicating the minimum age for selling alcohol, tobacco, nicotine products, as well as electronic cigarettes.
- Each canton also has its own laws. Find out which laws apply in your canton.

Penalties

- Anyone who breaks the law receives a penalty. The penalty depends on the severity of the offense.
- The penalties can consist of fines, a sales ban or – depending on the canton – even the withdrawal of the alcohol or sales license.

Key Rules of Conduct

- No sale or distribution of alcohol to children under the age of 16.
- Sale of beer, wine and mixed drinks with beer or wine is allowed only to young people aged 16 and over, except for Ticino.
- You may sell all alcoholic beverages, as well as products containing tobacco or nicotine, and electronic cigarettes to young people aged 18 and over.
- Mount a sign displaying information on youth protection and the minimum age requirement.
- If you are unsure, consistently ask for identification. It is better to ask for ID once too often.
- Remain calm and clear: No ID, no sale of alcohol, tobacco or nicotine products, or e-cigarettes.
- Ask other customers for their understanding of the situation.
- Get help in difficult situations.
- Use tools such as the ID Scan App: www.age-check.ch/id-scan-app
- Take the youth protection course on a regular basis at: www.age-check.ch
- **For supervisors:** Inform your employees about the youth protection regulations.
- **For supervisors:** Discuss mistakes in the team, offer help and tips.
- **For supervisors:** Guide young and new employees and explain the key aspects of youth protection they need to be aware of.

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