

Commitment to AFS Rules and Regulations Regarding Smoking and Possession of Smoking Devices and Products

Please refer to the Rules and Regulations (Pages 20-21) Section of your Welcome to the USA Handbook regarding AFS USA's policies with regards to AFS's Smoking Policy for Participants in the US. See attachments below (Page 21):

Smoking

Purchasing or using tobacco products is against the law in the U.S. for anyone under 18 years of age, therefore all participants coming to the U.S. are expected to abstain from smoking while on the program.

Attitudes toward smoking in the U.S., especially teenage smoking, have become increasingly disapproving. Many U.S. families do not permit cigarette smoking in their homes. Most businesses, restaurants, and other public places, such as airports and shopping malls, have "no smoking" rules. Most schools also have a "no smoking" policy. Some schools are quite strict with this rule and may suspend students caught smoking.

Since 1997, federal regulations prohibit the sale of tobacco or smokeless tobacco to anyone under the age of 18. U.S. culture emphasizes the rule of law. Thus, when underage participants break a law by smoking, there is a very negative impression associated with that person.

In some states, legislators are considering laws which would impose a fine on parents (including host parents) for allowing minors to be in possession of tobacco products in their homes. While this is not a widespread law, it does indicate the seriousness with which adults in the U.S. are taking the problem of teen smoking.

Remember, when your host family accepted you, they expected a non-smoker or a person who would not smoke while in the U.S.

Although not specified, this policy also includes vaping and use of vaping devices, which may be illegal for anyone under 18 years of age depending on the State.

Commitment:

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understood the rules and regulations above, and I commit to participation in the program without involvement in smoking or possession of smoking devices and products.

Signatures:

Participant

Liaison