



It's the Law

Directions: Read the story, then answer the questions. Write your answer in the space provided or circle the letter next to the correct answer.

Laws are the set of rules which define what people are supposed to do and the penalties for disobedience. In the U.S., laws are established by either court decisions, legislative action, administrative action by government agencies or directly by the people through voting. When new information based on research is available and when attitudes and ideas in our society change, the law usually changes also. That is certainly the case regarding laws on tobacco use.

The first report based on huge studies of the effects of cigarette smoking became public in 1964 with the Surgeon General's report linking smoking with many serious health problems. From that point on, different laws regarding tobacco use have been passed. Some of them include the following:

- Warnings must be put on all cigarette packages and advertisements (1965).
- Cigarette advertising must be restricted (1971 to present).
- Warning labels must be placed on smokeless tobacco products (1986).
- Smoking is banned in restaurants and indoor workplaces in California (1995).

These and several other laws about the sale, advertising and use of tobacco products continue to change as people react to new information about tobacco and its affect on health and the environment.



1. Why are labels required on all cigarette products?

2. Laws regarding tobacco use can be passed in which of the following ways (circle as many as apply):

- a. by legislative action at the state and national levels.
- b. by people voting for laws.
- c. by government agencies which deal with tobacco/health or environmental issues.
- d. by decisions made by courts.

3. Based on the laws already in effect regarding tobacco use, what other laws might be passed in the future to protect people from cigarettes and smokeless tobacco?

FCAT Writing

Select one of the laws described in this section. How could such a law be enacted?

