

SAMPLE I

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

22550 Hall Road

Clinton Township, MI 48036

586-469-5278 FAX 586-469-5568

www.mcosa.net



DATE

ADDRESS

Dear Owner/Manager:

In July of this year, your establishment was selected to participate in the State of Michigan's annual SYNAR compliance checks. This is part of a national effort aimed at decreasing youth access to tobacco and is funded locally by the Macomb County Community Mental Health Office of Substance Abuse. This project involves a visit to randomly selected stores/businesses around the county that sell tobacco products. The underage youth enters the store and attempts to make a cigarette pack purchase (either by over-the-counter or a vending machine) and records the results. These results are collected nationally and will be reported to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Unfortunately, your store did not pass its SYNAR compliance check. The staff person on duty attempted to sell a tobacco product to the minor participating in the SYNAR compliance check. As a result, we would like to inform you of a Tobacco Vendor Education packet that is available to all businesses that sell tobacco products. This packet explains the Youth Tobacco Act, proper training techniques for employees, the fines an employee/business could face if they are caught selling to minors and provides the proper signage that tobacco vendors are required to have posted. If you require a Tobacco Vendor Education Packet or would like more information on the Youth Tobacco Act please contact Melissa DiPirro, at CARE at (586) 541-0033 x220.

Tobacco is the number one cause of preventable death in our society. Each year thousands of teens become addicted to tobacco. The short-term goal of this project is to determine how many retailers are illegally selling tobacco to minors. Our long-term goal is to create awareness of the youth tobacco problem and reduce the sales of tobacco to minors, therefore preventing some of our children from beginning a lifetime addiction to tobacco.

We hope that you will do your part to help keep our youth and communities healthy!

Sincerely,

Randy O'Brien
Director
Macomb County Office of Substance Abuse

Janice Chang
Chairperson
Macomb County Tobacco Prevention Coalition