

HOOKAH

- ❖ A Hookah is a water pipe that originated in sixteenth century India and is also referred to as Shisha, Nargile (Narguileh), "Hubble Bubble", Nag, or Turkish water pipe. The hookah is a glass or metal water-pipe usually highly decorated and shaped somewhat like a bottle or small tank with a long, flexible cord pipe. In most hookahs, hot charcoal is placed on top of the tobacco to heat it. *Transcultural Tobacco-2003*
- ❖ Tobacco smoked in hookah pipes is often fruit flavored such as apple, strawberry, cola and a variety of other flavors, including spiced or molasses-based. Hookah tobacco is purchased in blocks, ranging in price from \$6.00-\$12.00 or squares from \$2.00-\$4.00.
- ❖ In addition to selling the block of hookah tobacco, some hookah venues rent the water pipes; for instance, 10 minutes use for \$10.00.
- ❖ Hookah tobacco contains the same chemicals found in all tobacco, including nicotine. Secondhand hookah smoke contains the same cancer-causing particulates found in secondhand cigarette smoke. *In addition, the charcoal used in the tobacco heating process produces the toxin, carbon monoxide.*

"The use of hookah pipes is not a safe alternative to cigarette smoking. Smoking hookah pipes has been reported to cause oral, esophageal and lung cancer as well as heart disease, chronic bronchitis and of course, nicotine addiction."

- ❖ ***Under California state law, smoking tobacco -- in any form, flavored or unflavored, in a water pipe or in a cigarette or cigar – is prohibited in indoor workplaces. Therefore, hookah pipes must be smoked outside – unless the venue is proven to be owner-operated or is a bona fide "retail or wholesale tobacco shop". California Labor Code 6404.5***
- ❖ Obtaining a tobacco retailer's license does not - by itself - mean that a hookah business is a bona fide retail or wholesale tobacco shop under California law. Businesses may be required to obtain such licenses even though the sale of tobacco is not their **main purpose**. For instance, **a foodservice workplace -- one that serves food or beverage for consumption on the premises -- is not exempt from the CA Smoke-free Workplace act, even when the establishment also sells cigarettes or hookah tobacco.**
- ❖ **"A 'tobacco store' means a retail business that meets all of the following requirements: (A) Primarily sells tobacco products. (B) Generates more than 60 percent of its gross revenues annually from the sale of tobacco products and tobacco paraphernalia. (C) Does not permit any person under 18 years of age to be present or enter the premises at any time, unless accompanied by the person's parent or legal guardian, as defined in Section 6903 of the Family Code. (D) Does not sell alcoholic beverages or food for consumption on the premises."** *CA Business & Professions Code Section 22962 (a) (4).*
- ❖ ***The sale of tobacco -- in any form: blocks, squares, cigarettes or cigars, flavored or unflavored -- to minors under the age of 18 is illegal. California Penal Code 308 (a).***

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