

# TENNESSEE – State Specific Signs

## Tennessee ADA Parking Signs

### Overview:

All states must comply with The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. It is a federal wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability. The 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (ADAAG) stipulates design standards for accessible parking spaces. Section 502.6 of ADAAG and The Department of Transportation Standard for Highway Signs (MUTCD) both address design standards for the required signs.

### Resources:

**2010 ADAAG Standards:** (Free)

[http://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards\\_index.htm](http://www.ada.gov/2010ADASTandards_index.htm)

**MUTCD Standard for Highway Signs:** (Free)

[https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/SHSe/shs\\_2004\\_2012\\_sup.pdf](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/SHSe/shs_2004_2012_sup.pdf)

**Tennessee Regulation:** (Free)

[55-21-108 - Unauthorized use of disabled parking or placard Violations Penalties. :: 2010 Tennessee Code](#)

### Design of Parking Signs:

- Accessible parking spaces must have a sign that includes the international symbol of accessibility and state "RESERVED PARKING." Spaces designed for van parking must also have a sign stating "VAN ACCESSIBLE." (ADAAG 502.6), (MUTCD R7-8)
- The sign should be 12"W x 18"H with green lettering and border on a white background. The symbol of accessibility should be 4"H and be white on a blue background. The symbol is a depiction of a person in a wheel chair. (MUTCD R7-8), (ADAAG 703.7.2.1)
- If required, the van accessible sign should be 12"W x 6"H and have green lettering and border on a white background or white lettering and border on a blue background. (MUTCD R7-8a, R&-8b)
- Signs should be mounted at least 60 inches above the parking surface so as to not be obstructed by any parked vehicles.
- Signs should be constructed to withstand the elements. An aluminum substrate with a reflective surface using UV stable ink is recommended. An anti-graffiti laminate surface might also be considered.
- Of note: Federal accessibility signs avoid the use of the text "handicapped" or "disabled" as a result of the Department of Justice's efforts to make use of up-to-date accepted terminology and avoid stereotyping of individuals. (28CFR35.104)
- Tennessee requires that the reserved parking sign also state the fine for unauthorized use and that the violator's vehicle is subject to towing. (55-21-108-4A)



## Compliance – Resource Bulletin

### Tennessee No Smoking Signs

#### Overview:

The State of Tennessee prohibits smoking in all enclosed public places and workplaces. Exemptions to the statewide ban are granted to retail tobacco shops, nursing homes, designated smoking rooms in public lodging establishments, private clubs, and bars or restaurants denying service to those under the age of 21. The Tennessee Non-Smoker Protection Act became law on 7/1/2007 and requires posting of signs enforcing the law at various locations. The law is administered by the Tennessee Department of Health. (39-17-1803) (39-17-1804)

#### Resources:

**Tennessee Non-Smoker Protection Act:** (Free) <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/tobacco/smokefree-tennessee.html>

**Department of Health Website:** (Free) <http://tn.gov/health>

#### Design of No Smoking Signs:

- The state statute defines an indoor public place as an enclosed space, either private or publicly owned, which is accessible to the public. The person having control of an indoor public place must post a sign at all entrances to the facility stating “No Smoking” or the international no smoking symbol, consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it. (39-17-1803)
- Though not required by law, it is common to post a “Smoking Permitted” sign at facilities where smoking is permitted.
- Department of Health recommended sign formats are viewable at the department’s website.

### Swimming Pool Signs

#### Overview:

The Tennessee Department of Health stipulates rules governing the use of public swimming pools and spas. The code became effective on 5/27/2006 and requires the posting of signs at public swimming pools and spas. (1200-23-5)

#### Resources:

**Tennessee Regulation:** (Free) <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/1200-23-05.pdf>

**NSP Foundation:** (Free) [http://nspf.org/en/Resources/News\\_StateCodes.aspx](http://nspf.org/en/Resources/News_StateCodes.aspx)

#### Design of Swimming Pool Signs:

Below are the required Tennessee swimming pool and spa signs. See the state regulation for more specific posting and design information.

- A sign posted where no lifeguards are provided stating “Warning No Lifeguard.” (1200-23-5-.02{o})
- A sign stating “No Diving” at pools not meeting the minimum requirements for diving. (1200-23-5-.02{o})

## Compliance – Resource Bulletin

### Tennessee Concealed Weapon Signs

#### Overview:

The State of Tennessee allows its residents to carry a concealed firearm (CCW) provided they have been issued a permit granted by the Tennessee Highway Patrol. An applicant for a permit must be free from a felony conviction, does not have an addiction to alcohol or other controlled substance, and has not been judged to have a serious mental illness. There are certain places such as schools, courtrooms, penal institutions, etc. where CCW is forbidden even with a permit. Tennessee honors the CCW permits of all other states. (39-17-1351) (39-17-1359)

#### Resources:

**Tennessee Regulation:** (Free) <http://search.mleesmith.com/tca/39-17-1359.html>

**Handgunlaw.com/Tennessee:** (Free) <http://www.handgunlaw.us/states/tennessee.pdf>

#### Design of Concealed Weapons Signs:

- By state law, the owner of a private business where CCW is allowed may forbid concealed weapons in their establishment by posting a sign indicating “NO FIREARMS ALLOWED” along with other required details. By state law, an owner may also post a sign indicating “CONCEALED FIREARMS BY PERMIT ONLY” along with other required details (39-17-1359, 39-17-1351). An individual, corporation, business entity, or government entity that as of January 1, 2018 used signs to provide notice of the prohibition of firearms permitted under this statute had until January 1, 2019 to replace signs with signs that meet the requirements set forth in 39-17-1359 (b)(3) (A), (B) and (C).

### Cell Phone Signs

#### Overview:

The State of Tennessee bans the use of hand-held cell phones by all drivers of motorized vehicles. The law was extended and went into effect on July 1, 2019. Drivers with learner’s permits and school bus drivers may not use wireless devices for any type of communication while driving.

#### Resources:

**Tennessee Regulation:** (Free) <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/acts/111/pub/pc0412.pdf>

**Handsfreeinfo.com:** (Free) <http://handsfreeinfo.com/tennessee-cell-phone-laws-legislation>



## Compliance – Resource Bulletin

(Cell Phone Signs Continued)

### *Design of Cell Phone Signs:*

- As of 9/1/2019 we are unaware of any mandatory “no cell phone” sign postings required in Tennessee.
- An efficient way to remind both commercial and private drivers of cell phone bans is to apply a “No Cell Phone Use While Driving” safety label or window decal to cars, taxi cabs, trucks, and buses.
- Of note: Because cell phones can be distractive by nature, it is common to see signs regulating cell phone use in public buildings such as theaters, airports, courtrooms, hospitals, buses, schools and school traffic zones.

## Baby Surrender Signs

### *Overview:*

Since the first baby surrender (safe-haven) law was enacted in Texas in 1999, all U.S. states, as well as the District of Columbia, have passed safe-haven legislation. The laws allow an unharmed infant to be relinquished to the proper authorities.

### *Resources:*

**Tennessee Regulation:** (Free) [http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/maps/Tennessee\\_Safe\\_Haven\\_Law.pdf](http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/maps/Tennessee_Safe_Haven_Law.pdf)

**NSH Alliance:** (Free) <http://www.nationalsafehavenalliance.org/>

### *Design of Baby Surrender Signs:*

- Tennessee allows for the relinquishing of a new born infant (3 days old or less) by a parent who no longer wishes to have custody of the child. The infant may be relinquished at any hospital, clinic, birthing center or law enforcement facility as defined by the Act. As of 9/1/2019 we are unaware of any requirement in the law for the posting of signs. (68-11-255)

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