



June 30, 2020

New Laws in Effect July 1

Governor Holcomb signed 167 new laws from the 2020 Legislative Session. Here are some of the new laws you should know to follow beginning tomorrow:

Distracted driving

Hoosiers can no longer hold or use a handheld mobile device while operating a moving vehicle, unless the device is mounted on a dashboard, another surface of the vehicle or operating in hands-free mode. The fine for operating a vehicle while holding a device is up to \$500 and possibly losing their driver's license for repeated offenses.

Smoking age

Hoosiers under 21 are prohibited from buying or possessing cigarettes, e-cigs or vaping products. Indiana retailers who sell tobacco products to underage customers will face double the fines. New tobacco retailers cannot be located within 1,000 feet of a school.

Medical billing

Most health care providers must prepare, upon request, a good faith estimate of the costs of nonemergency health care services ordered or scheduled for the patient to minimize surprise billing.

Out-of-network medical billing

When a patient sees an out-of-network medical practitioner at an in-network facility, they can't be charged more than the in-network price for the medical care. There is a catch, a person can be charged a higher rate if they receive a notice from the provider at least five days before the appointment with an estimated cost of the medical care and they consent to the cost.

Health pricing

Hospitals, same-day surgery centers and urgent care clinics are required by March 31, 2021 to post on their websites the costs of their most frequently used services. The Dept. of Insurance will create an all-payers claims database to improve health care pricing transparency.

Out-of-State prescriptions

Indiana pharmacists are obligated to fill a prescription issued by an advance practice registered nurse or physician assistant licensed in another state.

Insulin

A prescription is no longer required to purchase insulin in the state of Indiana.



Indiana is currently in Stage 4 of the 5 phases of reopening the state. This stage runs through July 3rd unless the governor and local officials say differently.

Continue sharing your stories on social media, The Arc of Indiana and elected officials.

Thanks for all you do for our state!

Online eye exam

Hoosiers between ages 18 and 55 may get a prescription for eyeglasses or contacts through telemedicine as long as they have undergone an in-person eye exam or contact lens fitting in the previous two years. Only two online eye exams are permitted within a two-year period before an in-person exam is required.

Adult guardianship services

The Volunteer Advocates for Seniors Program and the Volunteer Advocates for Incapacitated Adults Program into one program. When submitting a progress report, a person-centered plan must be included within the progress report.

First Steps insurance coverage

If a family's plan includes rehabilitative and habilitative services within their service plan, then the insurance provider must cover the First Steps services as listed within the family's insurance plan and the First Step's Individualized Family Service Plan.

Unemployment

Indiana businesses will continue paying the same unemployment insurance rates to the state through at least 2025.

Teacher evaluations

Annual teacher evaluations (linked to their pay increase) have been unlinked to ILEARN test results.

Small claims

The maximum value of a case eligible for judgment in small claims court has been increased to \$8,000.

Sexual assault victims

Victims of sexual assault have the right to request a no-cost forensic medical exam, speak with a victim advocate or social worker during their hospital visit, and a law enforcement officer investigating the assault must provide notice of these rights to the victim.

Resource officers

School corporations must annually report the number of school resource officers they employ for building and student protection to the Dept. of Education.

Organ donation

Hoosiers may indicate intent to donate their organs upon death on a state-issued hunting, fishing or trapping license, in addition to a driver's license, state ID card or donor registry.

Indigency

Judges in all 92 counties must consider the same criteria – assets, income and necessary expenses – to determine whether a criminal defendant lacks sufficient funds to hire a private attorney and is entitled to use a public defender.

OUTREACH NEEDED

Contact your congressional leaders to educate them on why Oklahoma's proposal to limit Medicaid is a bad idea!

Oklahoma has put a request in for the federal government to put limits on their state's Medicaid program. This would make it harder for people to get Medicaid coverage and easier for those already utilizing Medicaid to get kicked out of the program. Some other states are considering this same tactic to save their state money.

We have not heard anything about Indiana doing this, but we definitely don't want them to even consider doing this to our state or any other state.

[Click here to find out more and to take action now!](#)

Governor Holcomb's next statewide update is Wednesday, July 1st.

[Click here to view his update at 2:30 p.m.](#)