

“FLASH ID” PROTOCOL

Description for Adult Drivers

The purpose of the current study is to assess the frequency of illegal sales of tobacco to minors and the effect that showing picture ID has on selling tobacco, even if that ID shows the child is under the age of 18. Adults will be involved in accompanying children while they make purchase attempts.

Assessment of the sales rate will be done by having minors visit the retail outlets and attempt to purchase a pack of cigarettes. These outlets have been chosen randomly.

Adults will accompany children at all times to:

- Ensure the child’s safety
- Ensure that the experimental protocol is being adhered to
- Perform record-keeping activities
- Confiscate all purchased tobacco products for disposal by project staff

Because, in general, you will be accompanying two children who will each need to visit a number of stores, you will visit approximately 30 stores per week. This should take no more than about 8–10 hours per week of your time. In addition, you may spend as much as 2–6 additional hours performing record-keeping and data entry. If you have time available, you may be able to accompany more than one group of children.

Each store will be visited by one child. During the visit, the child will go up to the clerk and ask, “Can I have a pack of Marlboros? I have ID.” The child will then display the ID demonstrating he/she is too young to make the purchase. If the retailer proceeds to sell the merchandise without any additional questions, the child is to pay for the purchase and leave. If the retailer refuses to sell the cigarettes, the child is to leave. Adults will follow the protocol and inform each child prior to going into each store what he/she is to remember, particularly that the child should pay attention to anything the clerk says. If anyone else talks to the child (e.g., comments on how young they are to be buying cigarettes, etc.), the child is instructed to politely ignore them. In any instance, the child is to take note of the ethnic background of the sales clerk, the gender of the clerk, and the presence of other people. If any cigarettes are sold, the child is to keep track of the price. The adult will wait outside the retailer with the appropriate data sheet, and the child will report the above information immediately after each transaction for the adult to record.

Before, during, and after this component of the project, all adults will participate in group training and education sessions. Child confederates will also attend this training. The focus of these sessions is to:

- Explain the study in detail to all confederates
- Role-play various responses that retailers or children might make
- Explain about the illegality of the task and about how they have special permission to attempt to purchase cigarettes only while they are working on this project

- Provide basic anti-tobacco information to the children to discourage them from initiating tobacco use
- Discuss how the project is progressing

Throughout the project, adults will discuss with the children that the purchase of cigarettes by persons under the age of 18 is illegal and that they are doing this only by special permission. In addition, adults will continue to talk with the children about the negative aspects of tobacco use and about the special circumstance of this project that allows us to pretend the child is a regular customer. Both tobacco use and lying about their age in other circumstances are to be actively discouraged throughout this project.

Adults are aware that the purchase of cigarettes by minors is illegal in the State of California. Although we have obtained permission from local law enforcement agencies to conduct this study, children will be performing acts that are illegal. In addition, although adults will be given a preferred order in which to visit stores, you should understand that for you and the children for whom you are responsible, safety is of the utmost importance. Thus, if at any time you have concerns about safety, feel threatened, or feel there is a potential for harm, you are free to postpone a specified visit to any given store to a time when these concerns are not present. Should this happen, it should be noted on the data sheet, and a staff person should be informed. Thus, at all times you have minute-to-minute control of what children are doing and can take whatever steps are necessary to ensure both your and the children's safety.

I have read the above and understand that:

- I am agreeing to participate in a study of the illegal sale of tobacco products to minors.
- During the study, I will accompany children while they make tobacco purchase attempts.
- For the purchase attempts I will drive the children to the stores involved and will remain outside and available to collect the necessary data.
- In addition, I will participate in the scheduled training and educational sessions.

I further understand that the information I collect about the legal or illegal behavior of any specific retailer is to be kept confidential and not discussed with anyone outside of project staff. I further understand that I can withdraw my consent and cease participation at any time. If I have any questions or problems, I can discuss these with *[name and phone number]*.

Signature of Adult Driver

Date