



Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management

State information: District of Columbia

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Legal age to Consume Alcohol: 21

Legal age to Sell, Serve, Deliver or Pour Alcohol: 18

Age to Bartend: 21

Limit for Driving While Intoxicated: .08

Dram Shop Liability Laws: Case law in lieu of specific Dram Shop Laws

Maximum Alcohol per Drink: Not regulated

Number of Drinks Served at One Time: One. Per DC regulations, back-up drinks include second drinks served as part of a "two-for-one" promotion, second drinks served just prior to last call and second drinks provided complimentary by the licensee or purchased by other patrons. Except as provided above, back-up drinks do not include two different drinks served together such as a beer and a shot or any other industry drink that can be considered a shot and a mixer. The prohibition against back-up drinks also does not apply to the service of wine with a meal where the patron has not finished a previously served cocktail.

Service Hours: 8:00 am to 12:00 am – 7 days a week

SERVER TRAINING

Effective September 30, 2004, the District of Columbia has a mandatory training program for managers of on-premise establishments. Please contact ABRA for details.

ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF ID

Any Government-issued ID (local, state, federal or foreign) with name, and date of birth, signature and photo. Military ID issued by an agency of government is acceptable whether or not it contains the individual's signature. No college IDs are acceptable.

RECOMMENDED AGE FOR CARDING

None provided by ABRA

ID CONFISCATION

Confiscation is not authorized by law. Licensees should work with law enforcement to determine if identification is fake. Abandoned IDs – when guest flees after handing ID to employee to determine validity – should be turned over to law enforcement.

POLICIES REGARDING MINORS

It is unlawful to serve or sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. Minors are permitted in licensed establishment provided no alcohol is consumed.

NON-ALCOHOLIC BEER AND WINE

Not regulated.

LIQUOR LIABILITY



Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management

State information: District of Columbia

The following is a list of possible penalties for violating ABRA regulations by selling to a minor:

- First offense – Not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$3,000 fine and 5-day suspension (all days stayed for 1 year with employee training)
- Second offense in 2 years – not less than \$3,000 and not more than \$5,000 fine and 10-day suspension (6 days stayed with training)
- Third offense in 3 years – not less than \$5,000 fine and not more than \$10,000 fine and 15-day suspension (5 days stayed with training)
- Fourth offense in 4 years – Board may revoke license or impose a fine of no less than \$30,000
- Fifth or subsequent violation in 4 years – Board shall revoke license

Primary Tier Violations

- First offense - \$1,000 to \$2,000
- Second offense in 2 years - \$2,000 to \$4,000
- Third offense in 3 years - \$4,000 to \$6,000
- Fourth offense in 4 years – license revoked or \$30,000 fine and licenses suspended for 30 days
- Fifth offense in 4 years – license revoked

Secondary Tier Violations

- First offense - \$250 to \$500
- Second offense in 2 years - \$500 to \$740
- Third offense in 3 years - \$750 to \$1,000
- Fourth offense in 4 years - \$1,000 to \$2,000 (equivalent to First Primary Tier offense; every subsequent Secondary Tier offense within 5 years shall be fined according to the schedule for Primary Tier violations)

SAMPLE PENALTIES

<u>PRIMARY TIER</u>	<u>SECONDARY TIER</u>
Violating terms of on-premises retailer's license	Knowingly allowing patron to exit w/ open container
Failure to submit security plan	Failure to maintain posted notices
Violating terms of Arena C/X License	Serving back-up drinks
Sale to minors	Solicitation of drinks by employee
Sale to intoxicated persons	Permitting alcohol brought by guests to be removed
Sale to someone who fails to produce valid ID	Failure by server to open containers before serving
Sale and delivery outside allowed hours	



Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management

State information: District of Columbia

Copy of complete Government of the District of Columbia Alcohol Beverage Regulation Administration Laws and Regulations Code Title 25 and District of Columbia Municipal Regulations Title 23 are available online.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration
Government of the District of Columbia
2000 14th Street, NW Suite 400 South
Washington, DC 20009
202-442-4423
www.abra.dc.gov/

This information has been provided to us by the regulating agency and is believed to be correct. However, laws and regulations may change at any time, and the information provided should not be relied upon in place of official documents. For more information or clarification, consult the regulatory body for this jurisdiction directly.