



Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management

State information: Pennsylvania

General Regulations

Legal age to Consume Alcohol: 21

Legal age to Pour, Sell, and Serve Alcohol: 18

Limit for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or Controlled Substance: .08

Limit for Driving While Intoxicated, Minors: .02

Dram Shop Liability Laws: Yes

Server Training

Pennsylvania requires approved alcohol server/seller training. The state offers Responsible Alcohol Management Program (RAMP). RAMP consists of a four-part program: New Employee Orientation, Training for Alcohol Service Personnel, Manager/Owner Training, and The Display of Responsible Alcohol Signage. Licensees' compliance with the Responsible Alcohol Management provisions can be a mitigating factor in a subsequent citation for sales to minors or visibly intoxicated persons. RAMP Certifications expire after 2 years.

Acceptable Forms of ID

Valid State-Issued Driver's License

Valid State ID

Valid Armed Forces ID

Valid Passport or Visa with holder's photograph

Recommended Age for Carding

30

ID Confiscation

Pennsylvania licensees should contact a law enforcement officer rather than retain an obviously fraudulent ID.

Policies Regarding Minors

It is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to consume alcohol in Pennsylvania.

A person under the age of 21 may be convicted for purchasing, attempting to purchase, possessing, consuming, or transporting any form of alcohol. Adults are subject to fines and other repercussions if they provide alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age

It is against the law for retail licensees to permit minors to on its licensed premises, or any premises operated in connection therewith, unless the minors are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, or are under proper supervision.

“Proper supervision” consists of is a person twenty-five (25) years of age or older, who is directly responsible for the care and conduct of a minor or minors while on the licensed premises, and who keeps the minor or minors within his or her sight or hearing. If the



Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management

State information: Pennsylvania

licensee, an employee of a licensee or anyone else paid by the licensee is performing as proper supervisor then that person may not perform any other employment-related duties; otherwise proper supervision shall consist of unpaid volunteers. In all areas of Pennsylvania, except Philadelphia, each proper supervisor can supervise up to twenty (20) minors, unless the minors are on the premises as part of a school-endorsed function, in which case each proper supervisor can supervise up to fifty (50) minors. In Philadelphia, each proper supervisor can supervise only five (5) minors at one time.

Another exception, known as the "Pizza Hut" rule, applies only to restaurant, hotel and eating-place licensed establishments whose sales of food and non-alcoholic beverages equal fifty percent (50%) or more of their sales of food and alcoholic beverages. If a minor goes to such an establishment, the minor does not need to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, or be under proper supervision. Under this exception, minors can frequent any portion of the licensed premises except the bar area or any table where alcoholic beverages are being served.

Finally, minors may be present on retail licensed premises if they are attending a social gathering. A social gathering means "events marketed to or catering to minors in whole or in part for which proper notice has been provided to the Pennsylvania State Police, Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement ("Bureau"), and at which time no alcohol is served and all alcohol is removed or secured by lock and key at the licensed premises. Written notice must be given to the Bureau at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of a social gathering.

Non-Alcoholic Beer and Wine

It is unlawful to furnish or sell non-alcoholic beer or wine to persons under the age of 21. Non-alcoholic beer and wine are defined as those having less than .5% alcohol by volume.

Liquor Liability

Licensees are subject to license suspension or revocation or fines ranging from \$50 to \$1,000 for most violations. Licensees who violate the law regarding sales to minors, improper entertainment, prostitution, sales to visibly intoxicated patrons, controlled substances, corruption of minors, or public nuisance are subject to license suspension or revocation or fines ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. If a licensee receives three citations within a period of four years, the licensee is subject to a mandatory suspension or revocation of the license. In addition to the above penalties, any person who violates the Liquor Code shall be found guilty of a misdemeanor and sentenced to pay a fine between \$100 and \$500 and one to three months imprisonment if the fine is not paid. For subsequent offenses, a fine between \$300 and \$500 will be levied and if unpaid the violator faces three months to one year imprisonment. For violations relating to prostitution, controlled substances, or corruption of minors, the person related to the licensed premise could be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$5,000 and/or be



Techniques for Effective Alcohol Management

State information: Pennsylvania

imprisoned for three months to one year. The Administrative Law Judge may also require the licensee to undergo RAMP training.

Statute of Limitations

2 years

State Contact Information

Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board
602 Northwest Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17124
1-800-453-PLCB
www.lcb.state.pa.us

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.