

Overview of Arkansas Alcohol Laws

A summary for retailers

What you should know about underage drinkers ...

It is against the law to sell alcohol to minors (under age 21). If you sell alcohol, you must post a notice about underage drinking. The Alcoholic Beverage Control Board may offer specifics as to how the notice should be posted; but the notice must:

- state that giving and selling to minors is illegal
- state the consequences for selling to a minor
- be posted where the public can see it

Anyone who even *accidentally* sells alcohol to someone under 21 is committing a crime.

If you sell alcohol to a minor, you may be sued for:

- injury to the minor
- injury to another person, caused by the minor

If you knowingly sell alcohol to a minor (or trade alcohol for money or any other item or service), you could:

- get a Class D felony the first time
- get a Class C felony if you are convicted a second time within 5 years
- be imprisoned, fined, or both, for a second conviction within 5 years

What you should know about underage workers ...

It is almost always against the law for a person under 21 to touch, move, or sell alcohol while working for any business which sells or transports alcohol. If you break these laws, you will be fined. However, there are a few exceptions to the law.

With written permission from a parent or guardian, a person who is **18 or older** may:

- sell and handle beer and cooking wines at grocery stores
- work for a licensed liquor or beer wholesaler, or a licensed native winery, and handle alcohol at these places of business

With written permission from a parent or guardian, a person who is **19 or older** may handle and sell alcohol at a facility that has a license for on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages (a bar or restaurant, for example).

What you should know about selling to intoxicated patrons...

It is against the law to sell alcohol to someone who is clearly intoxicated (drunk). If you sell to someone who is clearly intoxicated, you may be sued if the intoxicated person causes an injury to someone else.

MISDEMEANOR:

Class C → Class B → Class A

less serious offenses, lesser punishments



FELONY:

Class D → Class C → Class B → Class Y

more serious offenses, more substantial punishments

This document is provided for informational purposes only. Please consult the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for more information on the laws related to the sale of alcoholic beverages in Arkansas. Arkansas Code can be accessed at the following link: http://170.94.58.9/data/ar_code.asp. For more information about substance abuse prevention, contact:

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention
305 South Palm Street • Little Rock, AR 72205
(501) 686-9030

