

Disclaimer:

This document is not intended to provide legal advice. Laws on alcohol sales and service may vary greatly by city, county or state. For complete information on the alcohol laws in effect in your region, please contact the liquor authority in your state and/or municipality.

District of Columbia

LIQUOR AUTHORITY	District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration 941 North Capitol Street, N.E., 7th Floor Washington, D.C. 20002 Phone: 202-442-4423 Fax: 202-442-9563 Website: www.abra.dc.gov
AGE TO CONSUME	21
CAN MINORS BE EMPLOYED?	Employees who are 16 years of age or older may handle alcoholic liquor containers and alcoholic liquor in the course of their employment. This includes removing and disposing of alcoholic liquor containers for the convenience of the employer and customers in the course of their employment. Persons must be 19 years old or older in order to sell or serve alcoholic beverages. Employees must be 21 yrs old to bartend.
AGE TO SERVE	19
AGE TO POUR	21
AGE TO SELL (PACKAGED LIQUOR)	19
MINORS ALLOWED ON PREMISE?	Minors are permitted in any establishment provided no alcohol is consumed. It is unlawful to serve or sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.
CAN PARENTS SERVE ALCOHOL TO MINOR CHILDREN?	No.
HOURS OF SERVICE	On-Premise Establishments Monday thru Thursday, 8:00 am - 2:00 am Friday & Saturday, 8:00 am - 3:00 am Sunday, 10:00 am - 3:00 am. Off Premise /Retail Stores For Class A Licenses: Monday thru Sat., 9:00 am -10:00 pm. For Class B Licenses: Monday thru Sunday, 9:00 am - 10:00 pm. Additionally, Class B retailer's licenses which meet the requirements of DC Code 25-303 (c)(i) through (3) may also sell or deliver alcoholic beverages between 9:00am and 10:00pm on Sunday and between 10:00pm and Monday through Sunday, and on December 24 and December 31 of each year. No restrictions.
ACCEPTED ID'S	Drivers license Valid non-drivers identification
LEGAL LEVEL OF INTOXICATION WHILE DRIVING	.08 BAC
DRAM SHOP LAW	No
ID CONFISCATION	Confiscation is not authorized by law but it may be done by licensees
HAPPY HOUR & OTHER SERVICE RESTRICTIONS	Licensees may not offer two-for-one drink specials.
PENALTIES FOR SERVING OR SELLING TO A MINOR	1 st offense: up to \$1,000 fine and/or up to 180 days imprisonment 2 nd offense within 2 years: up to \$2,500 fine and/or up to 180 days imprisonment 3 rd and subsequent offenses: up to \$5,000 fine and/or up to 1 year imprisonment
WARNING SIGNS REQUIRED ON EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL ON FETUS?	Yes. A licensees shall post in a conspicuous place, in accordance with regulations, a sign which reads: "Warning: Drinking alcoholic beverages during pregnancy can cause birth defects." These are available free of charge from the DC Liquor Board.

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Addendum: District of Columbia's Dram Shop Law

The District of Columbia does not have a Dram Shop Act Per Se.[35] However, the District of Columbia does prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors or already intoxicated persons.[36] D.C. Code section 25-121 states in pertinent part that the sale, service or delivery of beverages to any intoxicated person, or to any person of notoriously intemperate habits, or to any person who appears to be intoxicated.[37] While this section imposes an obligation upon commercial vendors of liquor to refrain from providing alcoholic drinks in circumstances indicating that a person is intoxicated and reasonably likely to cause harm to others, it has never been held to impose that duty upon social hosts.[38]

Source: "Survey Of Insurance And Tort Law In New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District Of Columbia, Virginia And West Virginia," SAUNDERS & SCHMIELER, P.C.