



## SUMMARY OF OHIO'S 21 DRINKING AGE LAW

### ***The Law***

- A person must be 21 years old to drink beer, wine, mixed beverages and/or spirituous liquor.

### ***Exceptions***

- It is illegal to provide a person under 21 years of age with beer, wine, mixed beverages or spirituous liquor unless accompanied by their spouse, parent(s) or legal guardian(s).
- A spouse providing beer, wine, mixed beverages or spirituous liquor to an underage spouse must be of legal age to purchase the beverage.

### ***Employment***

- 18-year-olds may sell beer, wine, mixed beverages or spirituous liquor in SEALED CONTAINERS ONLY.
- 19-year-olds may handle beer, wine, mixed beverages or spirituous liquor in open containers when acting in the capacity of a waiter or waitress.
- 19-year-olds may sell BEER ONLY across a bar. One must be 21 years old to sell wine, mixed beverages or spirituous liquor across a bar.
- A person of any age, employed by a permit holder, may handle beer, wine, mixed beverages and spirituous liquor in connection with stocking, bagging, bussing tables, etc.

### ***Public Possession***

- It is illegal for a person under 21 years of age to possess any beer, wine, mixed beverages or spirituous liquor.
- It is illegal for ANY PERSON to possess an opened container of beer, wine, mixed beverages or spirituous liquor in any public place.

### ***What Parents Should Know***

- As a parent, you cannot give alcohol to your teen's friends under the age of 21 under any circumstances, even in your own home, even with their parent's permission.
- You cannot knowingly allow a person under 21, other than your own child, to remain in your home or on your property while consuming or possessing alcohol.

### ***I.D. Cards***

- It is illegal for any person other than the state to manufacture, sell or distribute in any manner a card or identification card issued for the purpose of establishing a person's age that displays the great seal of Ohio, the words "Ohio," "State," "Official," "Chauffeur," "Commercial Driver," "Driver," "Operator," or any other designation that represents the card as the official driver's license or identification card of Ohio (a 4th degree felony punishable by 6 months to 5 years in prison and/or a fine of \$1,000 - \$2,500).