**Department:** Food and Beverage

**Date:** August 16, 2022

**Applies to:** All service team members

**Criteria:** RESPONSIBLE SERVICE and OLCC HOUSE POLICIES

**Purpose:** To ensure adherence and compliance to Oregon State OLCC policies concerning the service of alcohol (beer, wine, liquor, cider) to restaurant and hotel guests.

**Source:** Oregon Liquor Control Commission Handbook

**OREGON LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION (OLCC)**

The safety and security of our customers is the most important foundation of our business. Alcohol service involves serious risk and requires attentiveness and caution. Having a liquor license in Oregon, means we must adhere to the laws and regulations set forth by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC). Following these laws will not only protect you and the company from liability but will help to prevent harm to customers and society generally. The risks of death due to alcohol poisoning, driving while under the influence, or other injuries sustained due to intoxication are very serious and should be well understood and respected.

The SOP contains key points from OLCC training and licensing that you must use while employed with The Independence Hotel.

* If at any time there is a medical emergency, for example if somebody is unresponsive, or is physically or otherwise compromised to the point that they are unable to communicate, you are required to call 911.
* If a guest is violent or threatening, you are required to call 911.
* When in doubt, always call for help.

**REASONING**

Servers and establishments can be held liable for damages if they break the law, most commonly by serving alcohol to a visibly intoxicated person (VIP) or to a minor. The goals of the OLCC’s Alcohol Server Education Program are to help you in your job as an alcohol server to realize your ability to reduce the number of intoxicated drivers, and reduce the deaths, injuries, damages, societal problems, and costs resulting from the misuse of alcohol.

Alcohol servers are in a position of public trust to dispense a drug that can have deadly results when used inappropriately. Servers who are trained in responsible alcohol service can significantly reduce the number of intoxicated drivers and resulting lawsuits that can affect the server's and owner's finances for years.

In Oregon:

- It is illegal to serve alcohol to a person under 21 years of age

- It is illegal to serve alcohol to a visibly intoxicated person (or a VIP)

- It is illegal to allow a VIP to continue to consume alcohol.

**THREE KINDS OF DUTIES**

To serve alcohol responsibly, you must learn about and practice legal, house, and professional duties:

**Legal duties** are duties which the law requires you to perform. All servers and licensees must

follow legal duties. An example of a legal duty is refusing to serve alcohol to a visibly

intoxicated person.

**House duties or house policies** are set by the place of business and are equal to or stricter than

legal duties. All employees of the business are expected to follow house duties. Servers must

talk with their owner or manager to find out their house duties. An example of a house duty is

not serving doubles. It is not illegal to serve a double, but the establishment has decided it is

important to not put that much alcohol in front of a customer at one time. Other examples of

house duties are not stacking drinks, discouraging servers from pushing drinks, using a daily

incident log. ***The Independence Hotel House Policies are listed at the end of this document.***

**Professional duties** are duties which you choose to perform because you want to do more than

Your legal duties in order to protect your customers, yourself, and society in general.

Individuals follow the professional duties they set for themselves. An example of a

professional duty is attempting to persuade an intoxicated person to not drive a car, or to let their friends drive them home, take a hired vehicle, or stay in the hotel.

**VALID IDENTIFICATION**

**Checking ID’s** – We will check ID’s of anyone who looks younger than the age of 30.

**Acceptable ID’s** – The only acceptable ID forms:

1. Unexpired and unaltered driver license from a U.S. state, District of
2. Columbia or a province or territory of Canada.
3. Unexpired and unaltered ID card issued by a U.S. state, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, US Virgin Islands, American
Samoa, or a province or territory of Canada.
4. Unexpired and unaltered ID card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe
with photo, name, date of birth, and physical description
5. Unexpired and unaltered US Military ID card
6. Unexpired and unaltered passport or passport ID card
7. Unexpired and unaltered NEXUS or SENTRI card.

**How to Check ID’s** – To check valid forms of ID, customers must remove the ID from any wallet or sleeve.

* Feel for cuts, bumps, or uneven lamination
* Check the expiration date
* Make sure the birth date shows the person is 21 or older
* Compare the photo with the person (height, weight, facial

structure)

* Be able to read and understand the ID
* See “**TIPS FOR CHECKING ID**” at end of this document.

**Better Safe than Sorry** – Selling alcohol to minors. If age cannot be verified – do not sell that person alcohol. Protect yourself from liability. Any employee who sells alcohol to a minor is subject to discipline up to termination and if employment is retained, they will be required to retake an OLCC approved training course.

**If the same employee is found to have sold alcohol to a minor a second time, that person’s employment with Territory will be terminated.**

**Liability** - liability applies only when servers and licensees violate the law. ***If servers and licensees follow the law, they are protected from liability.***

Servers who serve alcohol to VIPs or to minors expose themselves and their employers to liquor liability lawsuits. Because licensees are responsible for the actions of their employees, they can also be named in a lawsuit. Servers and establishments that do not serve alcohol to visibly intoxicated persons or to minors help protect themselves from third party liability lawsuits

**Incident Log** - The best protection against liability lawsuits is to not serve alcohol to visibly intoxicated persons or to minors. For additional protection, licensees and servers should keep a daily record of events in their businesses.

An incident log is a written record of any event such as a fight, refusing service to a minor or intoxicated person, or calling the police. The log provides documentation to help build a defense in case a lawsuit is filed.

Information to record in an incident log includes:

• Names and addresses of customers, employees, and any other

witnesses. If you do not know someone's name, describe them.

•License plate number if an automobile is involved.

•Date and time of day.

•Describe events before, during, and after the incident.

Daily, consistent entries--even when there are no problems--demonstrate responsible business practices. The records should be kept for over two years because lawsuits can be filed up to two years after an event. Servers should consider keeping an individual incident log that they can take with them if they go to work at a different business.

A daily record provides other valuable business information, such as customer trends, requests or complaints, employee relations, and more. This can be a useful tool in improving the business.

**THE INDEPENDENCE HOTEL HOUSE RULES**

All employees are expected to follow all house policies regarding the service and selling of alcohol. The following list contains house policies that will be used to prevent problems and promote a safe environment for our customers, staff, and the community:

1. Employees will know and obey liquor laws and house policies.
2. We will check ID’s of anyone who looks younger than the age of 30.
3. Managers will always support employees in refusing alcohol to minors and visibly intoxicated persons.
4. All on-duty employees must be notified when a customer is refused service.
5. Signs stating that we will not sell alcohol to minors or visibly intoxicated persons are posted in a Visible area.
6. Employees may not report to work under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicants.
7. Employees must not consume alcohol or other intoxicants while on duty.
8. We will make every effort to keep intoxicated customers from driving, including offering free food to encourage them to stay longer, providing alternative transportation, or arranging overnight accommodations in exchange for an approved payment/rate and the guest’s car keys.
9. If an intoxicated customer insists on driving, the manager will immediately notify the police.
10. Staff will notify the manager of incidents such as cutting off or refusing service to a patron or asking a patron to leave and record this incident in shift communications.
11. Customers will respect our business, staff, and other customers or they will be required to leave.

**PROFESSIONAL INTERVENTION ATTITUDES**

A professional attitude and approach when cutting off or refusing service keeps you in control of the situation.

**Be courteous and concerned**. People are more cooperative when they feel they are being respected and helped, rather than being put down. You might try a statement such as “I want to see that you get home safely.”

**Be confident**. Confidence convinces people you are doing the right thing. Act confident even if you don't feel especially confident--no one will know the difference!

**Be tactful**. Never accuse a customer of being intoxicated. State simply that you cannot serve more alcohol and offer an option, such as, "Why not make this one coffee?

**Be discreet**. Make every effort not to embarrass the customer in front of friends or business associates. If possible, speak to the person privately.

**Be firm**. Don’t allow the impaired customer to talk you out of the rational decision you have made. Use a phrase that gets the message across and stops an argument in its tracks like, “I'm sorry I can't serve you anymore--it's against the law".

Occasionally it’s difficult to cut off service. By being prepared, you can keep control of the situation even though an intoxicated customer may be hostile, threatening, and irrational. Three reminders for dealing with difficult customers:

**•Remain calm**. It helps to remember that the customer is the one with impaired judgment, not you.

**•Get help**. Tell the manager or other servers. Sometimes even the hostile customer’s friends can help diffuse the situation.

**•Avoid arguing or fighting.**  De-escalate as much as possible. There is no need to argue with the customer or get them to understand. You’ve made a decision and you will be backed up by your manager. If they do escalate and become threatening, call the police.

**50 VISIBLE SIGNS OF INTOXICATION**

**APPEARANCE**
1. Bloodshot, glassy eyes 2. Flushed face
3. Droopy eyelids 4. Dazed look
5. Body tremors 6. Blank stare
7. Disheveled clothing

**SPEECH**

 8. Thick, slurred speech 9. Loud, noisy speech
10. Speaking loudly, then quietly 11. Rambling train of thought
12. Making irrational statements 13. Bravado, boasting
14. Slow response to questions or comments

**ATTITUDE**

15. Annoying other guests and employees 16. Argumentative

17. Aggressive or belligerent 18. Obnoxious or mean

19. Inappropriate sexual advances 20. Boisterous

21. Overly friendly to other guests or employees

**BEHAVIOR**22. Swaying, staggering, or stumbling 23. Unable to sit straight
24. Careless with money 25. Difficulty making change
26. Restless 27. Depressed or sullen
28. Crying or moody 29. Grinding teeth

30. Overly animated or entertaining 31. Agitated, anxious

32. Drowsiness 33. Lack of focus and eye contact
34. Difficulty standing up 35. Unusual walk
36. Falling off of chair 37. Falling asleep
38. Can't find mouth with glass 39. Falling down
40. Difficulty lighting cigarettes 41. Lighting more than one cigarette
42. Clumsy 43. Difficulty remembering
44. Spilling drinks 45. Disoriented
46. Crude, inappropriate speech or gestures 47. Extreme or sudden change in

 Behavior

**OTHER**

48. Odor of alcohol, marijuana or chemicals 49. Excessive perspiration

50. Repeated trips to the restroom or outside



**DEFINITIONS**

**Good faith effort:** Placing your hand on the drink and trying to remove it. If touching the drink may cause a disturbance, then good faith effort means making a verbal request for the drink.

**Implied Consent Law**: Says that anyone who drives on Oregon’s roads has given their consent to submit to a BAC test upon request of the police. If the person refuses the test, they automatically lose driving privileges for a minimum period of one year.

**Incident log**: A daily record of events occurring in an establishment kept by the licensed premises.

**Intervention**: The alcohol server's legal and professional responsibility to control and limit the customer's consumption of alcohol to prevent: drinking to intoxication, or visibly intoxicated persons from continuing to consume alcohol, or minors from drinking alcohol, or intoxicated persons from driving.

**Intoxication**: The condition of physical and mental impairment resulting from consumption of alcohol or other drugs, legal or illegal.

**Legal duty**: A duty the law requires a person to perform.

**Liability**: Responsibility

**Minimum food service**: A requirement that Full On-Premises Sales licenses have food available at all times when alcohol is served. The specific requirements depend on the type of operation. For commercial establishments open to the general public, the requirement is 5 different substantial items (such as sandwiches, pizza, soup, or sausages) available any time regular meals are not served.

**Minor**: In Oregon, any person younger than 21 years of age

**Professional duty**: Duties a server chooses to perform because he or she wants to do more than legal duties to protect customers, himself or herself, and society in general.

**Responsible alcohol service**: The legal and professional responsibility of alcohol servers to consistently take care that customers do not drink to intoxication, allow minors in possession of alcohol, intoxicated customers are not served and do not drive.

**Third party liability**: A law that allows a victim to sue a server or licensee or a social host for damages and injuries resulting from the actions of a customer. In Oregon, third party liability applies when the server or licensee violates the law by serving a minor or a visibly intoxicated person. The first party is the licensee/server, the second party is the customer, and third party is the victim.

RESPONSIBLE SERVICE and OLCC HOUSE POLICIES

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Employee Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Employee Signature Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_