

***But What If I Don't Think They Are Treating Me Fairly?***

Ask to speak to the manager. Share with them your concerns in a non-confrontational manner. If you are still not satisfied, ask how to get into contact with the owner or pass your concerns on to the Carbondale Liquor Advisory Board (LAB). The LAB is made up of local citizens who make recommendations to the Liquor Control Commission which is responsible for issuing liquor licenses. If you think you have been battered or subjected to a criminal offense, contact the Carbondale Police Department.

***Can I Drink Outside The Bar?***

No. Public consumption of alcohol is prohibited anywhere in the City of Carbondale.

***What Are The Possible Penalties If I Am Arrested Or Issued A Citation?***

The possible penalties depend on the charge which is filed against you. Penalties for misdemeanor crimes may include a fine, imprisonment or both. The maximum fine is \$2,500.00 and the maximum imprisonment is for a period of 364 days. Penalties for City Ordinance violations range from a minimum fine of \$50.00 and a maximum fine of \$750.00. But there is a minimum fine of \$250 for underage consumption or possession of alcohol, underage bar entry, or providing alcohol to individuals under 21. A violation of either a State Statute or a City Ordinance may result in an arrest and criminal history record.

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For more information on Liquor Laws or to process a complaint, you can contact:

Liquor Advisory Board  
c/o Carbondale City Clerk  
200 S. Illinois  
457-3281

or

Carbondale Police Department  
610 E. College St.  
457-3200 ext. 428

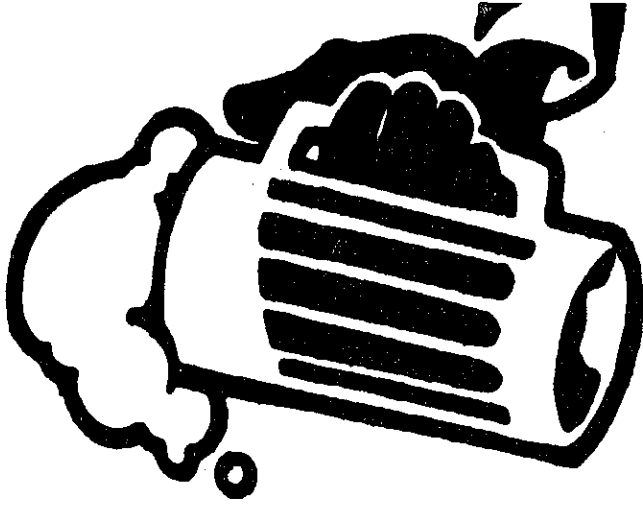
For more information on drinking health risks or services contact:

SIU Wellness Center  
536-4441

Southern Illinois Regional Social Services  
457-6703

The information herein provided is intended to serve as a guideline on common issues of concern to patrons of establishments serving or selling liquor. None of this in any way constitutes legal advice. Anyone desiring more detailed information about the implications of statutory or ordinance provisions pertaining to a specific problem scenario should contact a licensed attorney.

# The Facts About Drinking in Carbondale



# ALCOHOL QUESTIONS

If you choose to visit one of Carbondale's liquor establishments, it's important to remember that you are not only a customer but a guest of the business. And as a guest you have the responsibility to follow State and local laws as well as the rules of the establishment. Your behavior may dictate whether you will be able to enter or remain in the business.

The City of Carbondale has prepared this list of the questions most commonly asked by people visiting our liquor establishments:

## **How Old Do I Have To Be To Drink Alcohol?**

Both State Law and City Ordinance require a person to be **21 years of age** to purchase, consume or possess alcohol.

## **How Old Do I Have To Be To Enter A Bar?**

You must be at least **19 years old** to enter a bar unless you are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Persons under 19 may be allowed into establishments, such as restaurants, which sell primarily food but also offer alcohol for sale, up until the time they discontinue their full menu service.

## **Do I Need To Produce Some Identification In Order To Get Into A Bar?**

Yes. In fact it is the responsibility of the bar to ensure you are old enough to enter and they should ask you for identification.

## **What Are Considered Acceptable Forms Of Identification?**

The only acceptable forms of identification in any Carbondale liquor establishment are:

- **Vehicle Operator's License**
- **State Photoidentification Card for Non-Drivers**
- **Visa or Passport**
- **Military Identification**

## **Can I Get Into Trouble If I Use Someone Else's Identification To Get Into A Bar?**

Yes. Both State Statute and City Ordinance prohibit the use of any identification card used to misrepresent the user's age. Recent changes in the law make any person who uses another persons drivers license or identification card subject to a **minimum fine of \$500 or 50 hours of community service**. You may also have your drivers license suspended for a minimum of 12 months.

Also, any person *who allows* another person to use their license may also have their drivers license suspended for a minimum of 12 months. It is also illegal to even possess a false or forged identification card.

## **If I Get Inside A Bar, Does That Mean I Can Drink Alcohol?**

No. **You must still be 21 years old to drink**. Even though you may have been "carded" at the entrance to the bar, the employees still have a responsibility to ensure you are old enough to drink. So you should be asked for identification again before being served any alcohol.

## **Can I be Arrested For Drinking While Under Age?**

Yes. If you are found to be consuming alcohol while under 21 you may be arrested and charged with either a City Ordinance or State Statute violation. If you are arrested, you may be brought to the Carbondale Police Department, fingerprinted, photographed, issued a ticket and required to post a cash bond. **If convicted of a City Ordinance violation, the minimum fine will be \$250.00.**

## **What's the Illinois "Zero Tolerance" Law?**

Under the "Zero Tolerance" law, ANY level of alcohol in your system will result in the suspension of your driving privileges if you are operating a motor vehicle and you are under 21 years of age.

## **Can Police Officers Ask To See My Identification When I'm In A Bar?**

Yes. It is in your best interest to cooperate with a request of a police officer. Failure to cooperate could result in your arrest or a citation issued for obstructing justice or resisting an officer. If you feel you have been treated unfairly, you may report the incident to the Carbondale Police Department.

## **Once I Get Inside The Bar, Can The Management Ask Me To Leave?**

Yes. Illinois law allows the establishment to ask you to leave their property. If you are asked to do so and refuse, you are trespassing. Trespassing is a criminal offense punishable by fines, imprisonment or both.