

A CLEAR VIEW.....

On Responsible Beverage Service in Morgan County

December, 2009

Morgan County CLEAR

P.O. Box 163, Versailles, MO 65084



Welcome to this issue of CLEAR View. This is our 11th edition of CLEAR View, which is a newsletter sharing information from CLEAR (Community Leaders Educating About Resistance) and our community grant for reducing risky drinking (binge and underage) in ages 12-25. The holiday season is fast approaching. The season is a time of multiple celebrations, making it one of the most dangerous times. Often these celebrations include alcohol so let's look at some of the information we've shared previously in light of this and the need to serve responsibly.

Why is RBS so important? Learning to serve alcohol responsibly protects yourself and your employer or the business from liability and keeps our county safe. Be educated about the civil liability that is placed upon you when you sell alcoholic beverages. If something was to happen where you sold to intoxicated individuals, to minors or to subjects supplying products to minors, you could be liable both in criminal and civil court. Law enforcement always looks for evidence to discover where the alcohol was purchased. Most of the time law enforcement is able to find out where the alcohol was purchased through physical evidence in the vehicle or through statements from people involved. Whether the party has only a few people or there are a lot of people, it is the server/seller's responsibility to be sure that everyone is safe. So . . . if you are a liquor-by-the-drink or a package-liquor establishment you might review these suggestions with your employees.

Tips for Recognizing Intoxicated Individuals

It is against the law to serve/sell alcohol to an intoxicated individual. Watch for these visible signs of intoxication:

slurred speech

glassy eyes

a slowed response time

inability to maintain balance

a strong alcohol odor on the breath

If a person is showing a combination of several signs and symptoms or exhibits a significant change in their behavior, this can be an indication of increased intoxication. Just be safe and "Err on the side of caution". (*Remember someone's appearance can be misleading. Only 1 drink can impair the ability to drive.*)

1. Offer non-alcoholic beverages or food instead of alcoholic drinks.
2. Offer non-alcoholic beverages for the designated drivers.
3. Serve one drink at a time, allowing time between serving drinks gives the body time to absorb the alcohol.
4. Have food specials rather than drink specials such as oversize drinks or 2 for 1. Drink specials tend to encourage binge drinking.
5. Stop serving at least an hour before the end of the party. Remember only time can sober someone. It takes about one hour to oxidize each drink.
6. Encourage the use of designated drivers, call cabs or police if necessary to keep drunk drivers off the road.

- Contact CLEAR at 573.789.5509 or by e-mail at chapman1@vpclinks.com
- Contact the grant coordinator, Donna Chapman, at 573.789.5509 or CLEAR officers: Audrey Crewell, president; Sunday Unger, secretary; Sharon Fry, treasurer.
- Check out our website at www.morgancountyclear.org

How to Check ID's

Most confiscated ID's are real-used by someone who "borrowed" the ID.

1. Look at the person attempting to buy alcohol.
2. Pick out a permanent facial feature (such as nose, eyes or shape of face or lips).
3. Ask for ID. Be sure the ID is: driver's license from any state, Missouri non-driver's license, passport, or military ID. Have person remove ID from wallet. Check-- does the wallet have other forms of identification? Keep ID until you are satisfied it is valid.
4. Feel the ID. Are there bumps, ridges or other irregularities? Look for tracing or an overlay. While checking the ID watch the body language of the subject who presented it. Possible behaviors to watch for: turning away, defensive, nervous, or unable to maintain eye contact.
5. Now—look at the ID. Does the permanent feature you selected show up in the picture?
6. Then check physical description – height, weight, eye color.
7. Check the date of birth: month, day and year. Is there an under 21 line? Check the expiration date of the ID. If needed, grab the ID Checking Guide and verify that the ID is valid.
8. Still not sure? Ask for secondary ID. Most people carry some other cards with their name. Individuals with "fake" ID probably only have that one piece of identification.
9. Always assume that the person buying the alcohol is under 21 until he/she proves his/her age.
10. If you are still doubtful, refuse the sale!

Hints for Sellers of Package Liquor:

Protect yourself and the business you work for, so you aren't liable for serving or providing alcohol to minors.

1. Check the ID.
2. Watch the parking lot for car loads of young people and young people attempting to get other customers to buy for them.
3. Be aware of customers that may purchase multiple brands as they may be purchasing for several underage drinkers.

Trust your feelings. If something doesn't seem right, it probably isn't. Take the time to question people making suspicious purchases, and about the information on their ID Cards.

Intensive Holiday Drunk & Impaired Driving Crackdown & Advertising Blitz Announced

The "Over the Limit, Under Arrest" national drunk and impaired driving crackdown involving thousands of law enforcement agencies during this holiday season was kicked off by Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "Drunk driving is a major public safety threat that still claims thousands of lives every year," Secretary LaHood said. "Drinking and driving is dangerous and unacceptable, and I'm asking law enforcement to stay vigilant during this holiday season." "Law enforcement officers will be out in full force during the upcoming holiday, especially at night and on the weekends, looking for the drunk drivers that put the rest of us at risk." Prior National Highway Traffic Safety Administration research has consistently shown that more people are killed in crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver on weekends and at night (in 2008, 58% of drivers who were killed in crashes that took place over the weekend and at night were alcohol-impaired.) The enforcement crackdown runs from December 16 to January 3.

Citation: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>

Make a New Year's Resolution to join the merchants that have trained their employees to serve alcohol responsibly: Boardwalk Grill, Captain Ron's, Chances 'R, Elks Lodge 2705, Fast Lane, G-2-M, Jiffy Stop, Lake Liquor & Tobacco, Osage River Bar and Grill, Shrimp Daddy's, Westside Lanes, Laurie; Coconuts, Harbor Hills Convenience, Have A Space, Gravois Mills; Rocky Mount Roadhouse, Rocky Mount; Grey Bear Vineyards, Split Rail Country Market, Temp Stop, Stover; Jiffy Stop, Jungle Jane's, Merten's Mini Mart #4, Pioneer Restaurant, Pizza Hut, Skeeter's, Versailles Eagle Stop, Versailles. CLEAR will be back with RBS trainings in the spring.