

Serving Drunks: Who not to serve

The Licensing Act 2003 makes it an offence for anyone to serve alcohol to a drunk person. Although to date there has not been a conviction for serving alcohol to a drunk person, licensees must not be complacent. Serving alcohol to a drunk person may be interpreted as a licensed premises operating in a way that is not promoting the licensing objectives (i.e. in this case public safety and preventing crime and disorder) and this is likely to lead to a revocation, removal of a DPS or additional conditions being imposed in a premises licence.

Be sure not to serve alcohol to a drunk person by following the following tips.



Train your staff to recognise signs of drunkenness, eg. slow and/or poor judgment, lack of coordination, loss of balance.



Make sure your **door staff do not let people who appear drunk into your licensed venue**.



Make sure your **staff knows the law on serving people who are drunk** and keep a training record.



Make sure you have **procedures in place to remove people from your venue who are drunk**.



If you are using breathalysers remember, people react to alcohol in different ways, so this is not to be used in isolation.



Make available alcohol-free options, mocktails and/or soft drinks. **Remember you must make available free water**.

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