



## **Quick Guide: Accepting Foreign Identifications**

The following guide addresses common questions regarding the ability of alcohol licensed establishments to accept foreign identifications as proof that a patron is of legal drinking age.

### **RELEVANT LAW**

The following laws relate to this topic:

- D.C. Official Code § 25-101(53) (“Valid Identification”)
- D.C. Official Code § 25-781 (Sale to minors or intoxicated persons prohibited)
- D.C. Official Code § 25-783 (Production of valid identification document required)

### **LEGAL DRINKING AGE AND REQUIREMENTS CHECK IDENTIFICATION**

The legal age to purchase, possess and consume alcoholic beverages in the District of Columbia is 21. Licensees are required to take reasonable steps to ascertain that a patron is of legal drinking age. A licensee is prohibited from selling an alcoholic beverage to any patron that fails to present valid identification upon the request of the licensee.

### **VALID FOREIGN IDENTIFICATION**

A foreign identification or identification issued by another country may be accepted by a licensed establishment if (1) issued by a foreign government (e.g., passport, foreign driver’s license); (2) contains the bearer’s name; (3) contains the bearer’s date of birth; (4) contains the bearer’s signature; and (5) contains a photograph of the bearer.

### **PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY**

The District of Columbia’s alcohol laws protect a licensee from claims arising from the refusal to sell or permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages on its premises. Please note that this guide solely addresses liability under Title 25 of the D.C. Official Code and does not address claims related to human rights violations or discriminatory treatment.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

For more information, visit [ABRA.DC.Gov](http://ABRA.DC.Gov) or contact ABRA at 202-442-4423 or [ABRA@DC.Gov](mailto:ABRA@DC.Gov). Questions and concerns regarding discriminatory treatment should be addressed to the [District of Columbia Office of Human Rights](http://District of Columbia Office of Human Rights), which may be contacted at [ohr@dc.gov](mailto:ohr@dc.gov) or 202-727-4559.