

When to ask for ID

It is illegal to sell, serve or supply alcohol to anyone under the age of 19 in BC. A licensed establishment is subject to stringent legal penalties if any alcohol is served to a minor including a minimum 10-day licence suspension or a \$7,500 fine. A minor caught using false identification is subject to a \$230 fine issued by police.

Two pieces of ID are required in BC to verify age

- **The first piece** must be issued by a government agency (Canadian or other) and include the person's name, signature, birth date and picture (passport, driver's licence or BC Identification (BCID) card).
- **The second piece** must include an imprint of the person's name and include the person's signature and/or picture (credit card, BC CareCard, SIN card, or BCID). You must refuse entry or refuse to sell or serve liquor if the person cannot produce two pieces of acceptable ID that prove they are 19 or older.

If you suspect fraudulent ID

- **Hold the ID in your hands.** Don't just let the person flash it at you. If the ID is in a plastic case, take it out.
- **Check the photo.** Is this the person standing in front of you? Does the photo look faded, yellowish or "off"? If so, it may be a laminated copy.
- **Feel the document.** Run your thumbnail over the date-of-birth line. If someone has taped a new birth date over the original your nail may catch on it. Feel for any extra thickness around the photo and the edge of the lamination. This may mean someone has put a second photo on top of the original and re-laminated it. Check the lamination. A fake ID may have wrinkles or air bubbles in the plastic and the edges may be peeling.
- **Look at the details.** Turn the piece of ID in the light. Government-issued ID usually has holograms or raised seals. Are the numbers the same thickness, weight and colour? The numbers on tampered ID may be thicker, heavier and darker.
- **Ask for confirmation.** A sample signature can be compared to the signature on the photo identification. Ask for the person's zodiac sign. People with false ID will often be unable to answer correctly without hesitation. Ask the guest to spell his or her middle name. Verify information on the ID, such as the person's address or postal code.

Tips for retail liquor store employees

Watch for activity that indicates customers are purchasing for minors:

- Minors hanging out near the store, usually in groups.
- Customers who are talking with minors outside the store. These customers may tell an employee directly that minors are asking them to purchase.
- The same product purchased or attempted to be purchased within a few minutes.
- Call local liquor stores if a minor is refused service and indicates an intention to try elsewhere. Give a physical description and warning that this minor may be attempting to purchase alcohol.