VERIFYING AN INDIVIDUAL’S AGE

As the seller, you are responsible for determining whether or not an individual is old enough to lawfully consume alcoholic beverages. When licensees have doubts about a person's age, the licensee should ask for identification before selling or serving the alcoholic beverage. If after checking the ID, the licensee still has doubts, the sale should be refused.

MISREPRESENTING AGE

It is unlawful for minors to misrepresent their age for the purpose of purchasing or attempting to purchase alcoholic beverages from an alcoholic beverages licensee or permittee. When licensees (their employees and agents) are charged with a sales-to-minor violation, a defense to the charge is available to them if:

- The minor who made the purchase misrepresented their age.
- Licensees made reasonable inquiry to determine if the purchaser was of legal age.

IOWA DRIVER'S LICENSES AND NON-OPERATOR’S IDS

Today's Iowa driver’s licenses and non-operator’s ID cards are designed to be tamper-proof. An attempt to alter the printed data or photo results in noticeable destruction of the photo and printing on the license. To protect against alteration and counterfeiting, a number of features are incorporated into the license and ID card.

IF AN ID IS QUESTIONABLE:

Ask for a second ID. Individuals with fake ID’s rarely carry back-up information.

Quiz the person about basic information on the license or card, such as birth date, middle initial, zip code, etc.

If licensees (their employees and agents) suspect that the ID has been altered or belongs to another person, the licensee should refuse the sale or service. An alcoholic beverages license allows – but does not require - licensee to sell and serve alcoholic beverages.
Here is an example of an **under 21** license:

![Example ID Card]

Persons under 21 have a vertical license with a red bar that states they are under 18 or 21 until a specific date.

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**About This Guide:**

This guide is intended as a brief overview for new hires on how to check an ID when selling tobacco or alcohol products. For more in-depth information, visit abd.iowa.gov.

You can also contact your local law enforcement agency for any questions. Substance Abuse Services for Clayton County also provides Beverage Server Trainings every year. If interested in attending this free training, contact 563-245-1546.