

Alcohol Laws

Can I buy alcohol from a bottle shop?

If you are under the age of 18, then it is illegal to buy alcohol from a liquor store, pub, nightclub or any other licensed premises. You can be charged if you attempt to do this.

If you get someone who is 18 years or over to buy alcohol for you, then, both you and that person commit an offence and can be charged.

Can I go to a pub if I don't drink alcohol?

If you are under the age of 18, you may be allowed on licensed premises if you are accompanied and under the supervision of a responsible adult (parent or guardian) or are there to have a meal. In either of these situations, you are not allowed to consume alcohol. If you are unsure whether you are permitted on licensed premises then ask the manager or person in charge of the premises.

If you are under the age of 18, it is illegal to drink alcohol or bring alcohol into a pub, nightclub or any other licensed premises.

If you are suspected of being under age in a pub or nightclub, then you may be asked to produce evidence of your age by staff or police. If you do not do so, you will be asked to leave the premises.

If you give them false identification or make a misleading statement about your age to the staff or police, then you commit an offence and your false identification may be seized.

If you refuse to leave the premises, you may be removed with reasonable force.

Can I drink alcohol in a park with my friends?

If you are under the age of 18, then you commit an offence if you have any alcohol on you or in your control when you are in a public place and this includes being in a public place and drinking in a car. A public place includes a road, street, car park, beach, an outdoor concert, or a park.

The Police or Ranger may issue an infringement notice under the Liquor Control Act 1988 for possessing alcohol in a public place (a fine of \$200).

Whether you are under the age of 18 or over the age of 18, if you are drinking alcohol on a street, road, near an entertainment venue or inside a public place, the Police or Ranger may issue an infringement notice. The Police may also seize your alcohol and keep it as evidence should the matter go to court. Any opened or unopened liquor may be seized and disposed of by the Police.

If you are under 18 and are caught by the Police with alcohol in any public place, then your alcohol can be taken off you and destroyed, whether or not you are drunk (s.5 Protective Custody Act 2000 (PCA)).

If you are under 18 and drunk in a public place, the Police can apprehend you and hold you until you can be released back into the care of your parent or guardian.



Alcohol Laws (continued)

Can the Police confiscate alcohol if it is in my car?

If you and your passengers are under the age of 18 and the alcohol belongs to you or another underage person, then the alcohol can be confiscated and destroyed (s.5 PCA) or kept by the Police as evidence should the matter go to court.

I am 18, can I drink alcohol anywhere?

If you are 18 years or over then you can legally consume alcohol at a pub, nightclub or any other licensed premises and you can purchase alcohol from a liquor store.

However, if you are drunk, violent, quarrelsome, disorderly or behaving indecently while on licensed premises, steps will be taken to remove you from the premises and you must leave the area and not re-enter for 24 hours or you commit an offence.

If you are drunk on licensed premises, the manager or staff will refuse to sell or supply you with more alcohol.

It is also an offence to consume alcohol on any highway, road or street.

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Important: This general information is not the same as legal advice. You should speak with a lawyer about your situation.



YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE inc
western australia

For assistance contact:

Kids Helpline

1800 551 800

Crisis Care

9223 1111 or 1800 199 008

For help with this and other issues contact:

Youth Legal Service Inc (WA)

(08) 9202 1688 (Perth Metro)

1800 199 006 (Country WA)

www.youthlegalserviceinc.com.au