ILCC NEWS

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Division News

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Editor: Nicole Sanders
Jr. Editor : Patrick Schoeben



"The Illinois Liquor Control Commission aims to be a resource to the public and our licensees. It is my goal to ensure that the level of service and the information provided by the ILCC is always exceptional."

Executive Director
Lisa Gardner

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ILCC Mission Statement

"To protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Illinois through careful control, education, manufacture , distribution, and sale of alcoholic liquors and the development of strategies to reduce drunk driving and youth access to alcohol products."

Achieving a Healthy Work-Life Balance

A healthy work-life balance can help you feel healthier, happier, and more productive in your career. A healthy work-life balance is when you can achieve your career goals while still maintaining the time and energy to devote to living a fulfilling personal life. Basically, this means that you have the time and resources for your personal and professional life. If you do not have a healthy work-life balance, this could lead to burn out. To achieve a healthy work-life balance, follow the tips below:



A healthy work-life balance is when you can achieve your career goals while still maintaining the time and energy to devote to living a fulfilling personal life.

~ Madeline Small~

1. Leave work at work - With remote work becoming more common, it can be hard to disconnect from work during personal time. When you sign off for the day, establish a routine to assist in disconnecting from work. For example, place your laptop in a drawer or laptop bag for the night and do not respond to work emails after work hours.
2. Explore personal hobbies - Make time to explore various activities you enjoy. While many of us may define ourselves by the work we do, it is important to have interests and hobbies.
3. Spend time with friends and family - Scheduling time with loved ones is important to our mental and emotional health. It is important to spend time with those who love, support, encourage, and care for your overall health and well-being.
4. Avoid being a perfectionist - While many of us strive to be great at our work, there is a difference between working hard and being a perfectionist. You are more likely to meet career goals when striving for excellence and not perfection.
5. Love your career - Assess if you enjoy the career field you are in, and if not, explore what you might do instead. It is important to love the work you do because you will be more likely to be happy at work.

New Appointment Booking Option

The ILCC has implemented an appointments only program. Appointments will be required for all customers seeking in-person licensing assistance at the ILCC's Springfield and Chicago offices. The Appointments Only program will improve customer service and eliminate the unpredictability of wait times at the ILCC's offices. Licensing appointments can be booked on the ILCC's website under the "Schedule a Licensing Appointment" link. Customers can choose the type of licensing services they need and a time and date for their appointment.

> The Appointments Only program will improve customer service and eliminate the unpredictability of wait times at the ILCC's offices.
>
> ~Dusanka Marijan~



Do you have Licensing Questions?

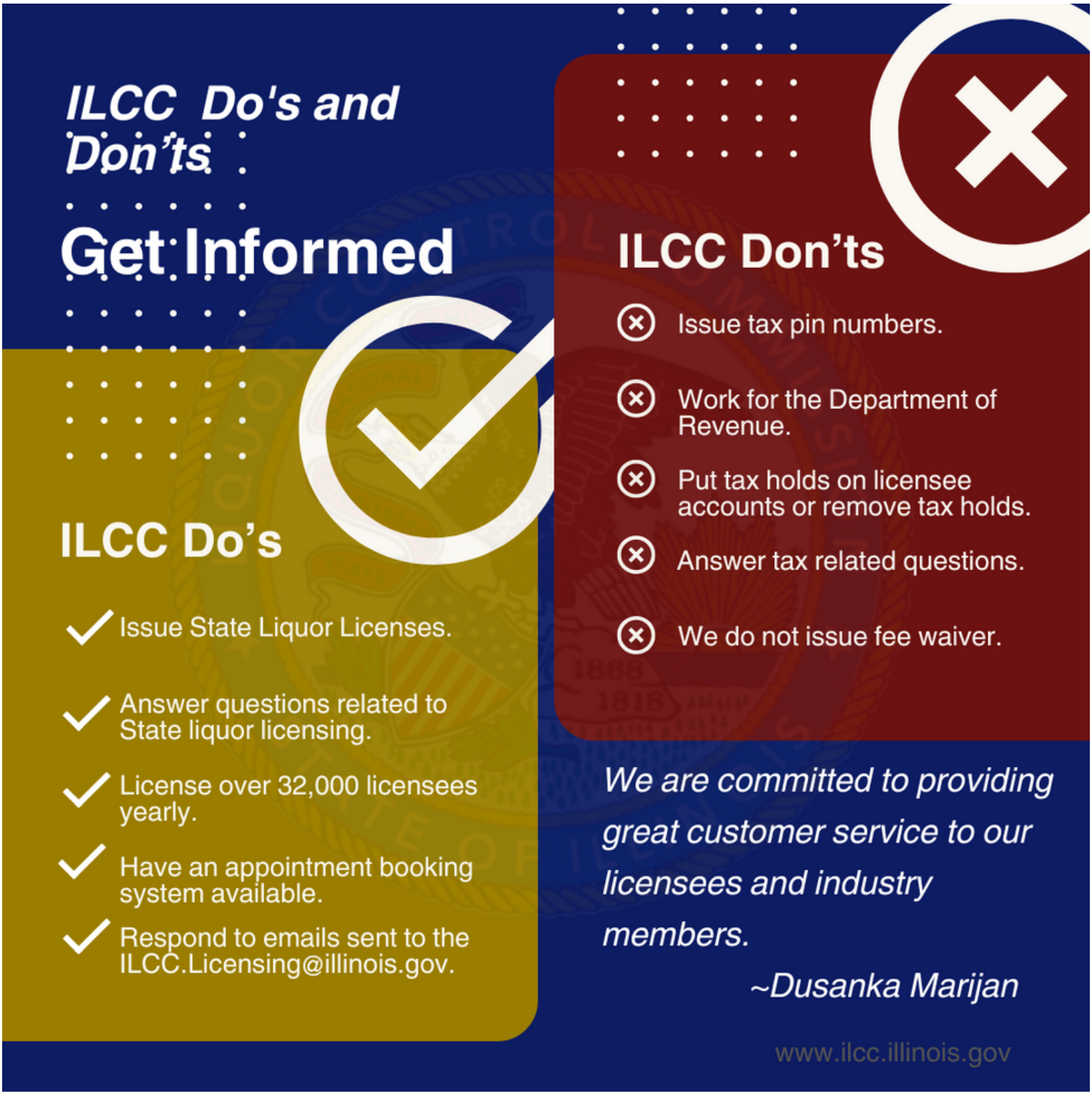
Over the last year, the ILCC Licensing Division has hosted several webinars. The webinars are informational and can help with some of your questions. These webinars are great resources to prepare you for the alcohol business. They provide you with guidance on the application process and the types of licenses that you'll need in order to be successful. You can find the webinars online right now on YouTube.



Available Webinars

- How to obtain a State Liquor License
- Enforcement and Licensing
- Special Event/Special Use
- Brewers, Distillers and Winery Special Events
- Licensing Q&A

What the ILCC Licensing Division Does vs What the Public Thinks We Do

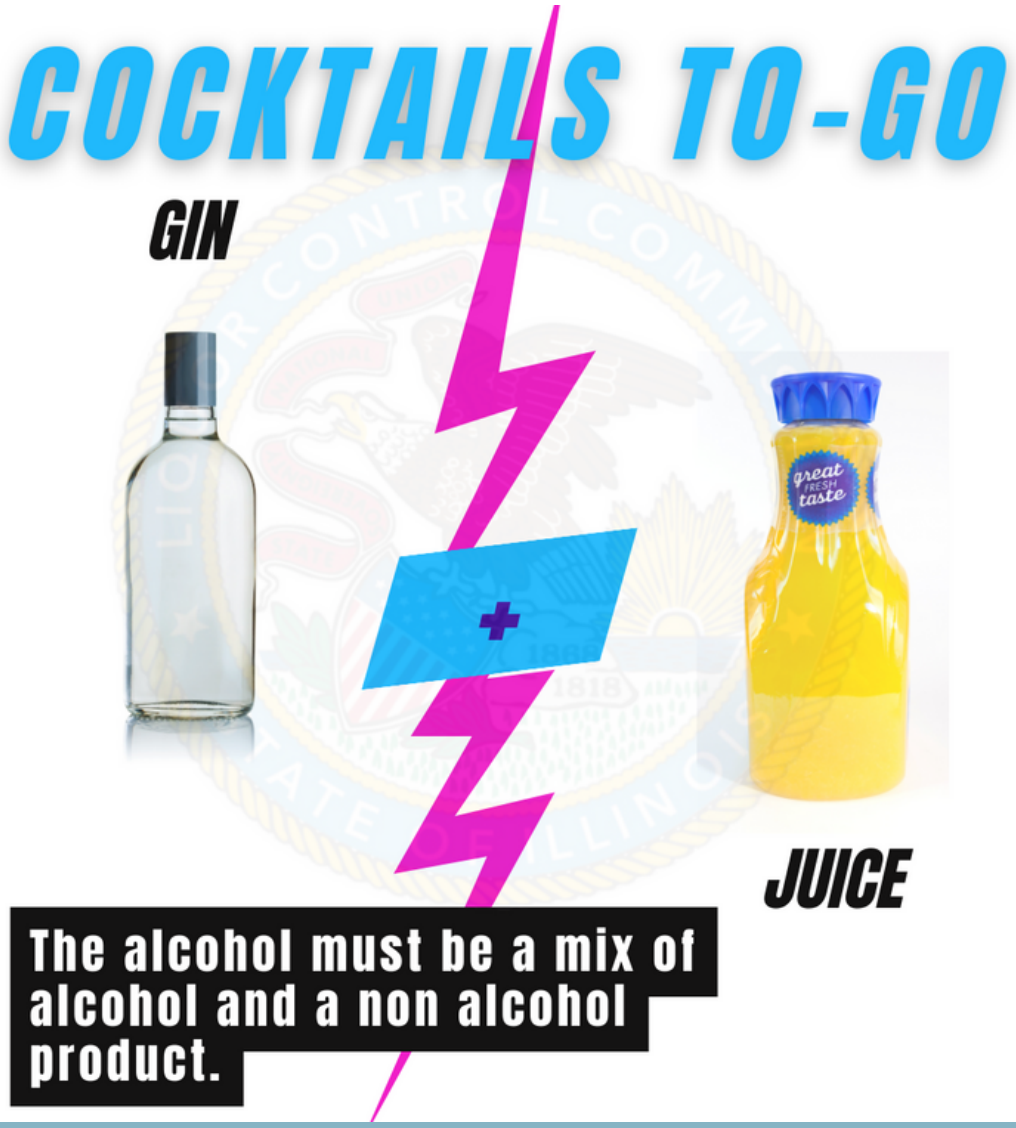


What the ILCC Does vs What the Public Thinks We Do



What is the Difference between a Cocktail To-Go, Pre-Mix and Infused beverage?

These drink combinations can be confusing. Here's a quick way to distinguish between the three. These types of drinks cannot be delivered through a third party delivery service. They must be delivered by the retailer directly.



Quick Tips

Requirements

- Mixed drink/cocktail delivery is limited to holders of State of Illinois retailer liquor licenses ("1A Licenses"). The 1A License is a combined on/off license or both an on-premise and an off-premise license.
- Must be sealed by a retailer's employee with a secure cap or lid that is tamper-proof or tamper-evident (includes wax-dip seals and heat shrink wrap covers) the container must be rigid and cannot be plastic or Styrofoam.
- The lid shall not have sipping holes or holes designed for straws.

How to Label

- The name of the mixed drink/cocktail ingredients, type, and name of the alcohol.
- The name, license number, and address of the retail licensee that filled the container and sold the product.
- The volume of the mixed drink/cocktail in the container.
- The date the container was sealed.
- The sealed container must be filled less than 7 days before the date of sale.

What is the Difference between a Cocktail To-Go, Pre-Mix and Infused beverage? (cont'd)

*Containers can be a sealed bucket, slushy machine, cooler



What is the Difference between a Cocktail To-Go, Pre-Mix and Infused beverage? (cont'd)



Requires fruit, herbs and/or spices added to the alcohol to create a new drink/flavor. Up to 14 days to infuse. Up to 21 days to use before it must be disposed.

Don't get a fine because you didn't display the proper signs

Required Signage

Permanent Rule 100.490

Available online and at the ILCC offices

*Spanish version also available online



Don’t get a fine because you didn’t display the proper signs

Required Signage

Proof of Age and Pregnancy Warning

Available online and at the ILCC offices

*Spanish versions also available online





Is your BASSET card current?

Uncertified BASSET staff is one of the top five compliance violations for the ILCC Enforcement Division. In the State of Illinois, every seller, server, bartender and security personnel must be BASSET certified. So, why are licensees still getting this $100 fine? Your guess is as good as ours. BASSET has been mandatory since 2018 in Illinois. We have well over 100 trainers that provide in-person and online training. In order to help avoid this unnecessary fine, we will continue sending out a monthly expiration reminder. We are also introducing in-person BASSET training this year in our Chicago and Springfield offices. The spots are limited so subscribe on our website so you get the "Register Now" email.



Who Must Be BASSET Certified

- Bartenders
- Sellers
- Servers (Includes Special Use Events)
- Security

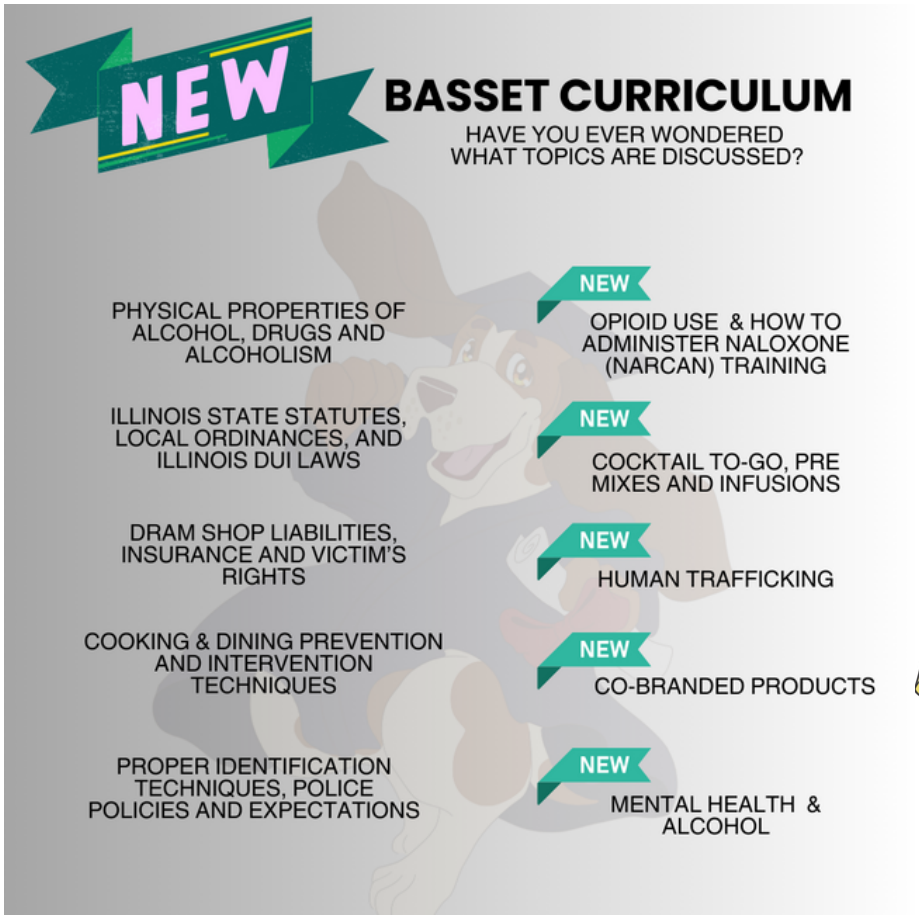
Quick Tips

- You have 120 days from your hire date to obtain your certification.
- BASSET certification is valid for 3 years after issuance.
- You can search for your BASSET ID # online.
- It may take up to 30 days for your BASSET card to be available.
- If you need to update your information, you must reach out to your trainer to make the required changes.

Topics Discussed During a BASSET Training



The BASSET program has been quietly going through an overhaul. Course compliance checks are now required for all of our BASSET trainers. The compliance checks focus on the materials that are taught during the 4 hour course. We are committed to making sure that our 100+ trainers across the country, and online, are providing industry professionals with the most up to date information. The State's rules and regulations, and the ILCC's curriculum topics, are important for bartenders, seller, servers and security personnel to know in order to provide the best service to all Illinoisans.



All BASSET professionals should subscribe to the ILCC newsletter in order to receive the latest information and news pertaining to BASSET.

I'm Just a Bill Sitting on ....

As our State enters the middle of its Legislative Session period, the ILCC is actively and aggressively pursuing legislation that we believe not only benefits the Commission, but also the residents of the State of Illinois. While we have a responsibility to ensure that our licensees have all of the tools that are required in order to conduct business, we also have the added responsibility of educating and protecting the public against the potential dangers of alcohol overuse and abuse. With that, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission has filed five bills this session and we have the benefit of strong legislative supporters in Springfield backing those initiatives. The ILCC is working with both the State Legislature, as well as industry members, to ensure that this impactful legislation crosses the finish line. We will continue to observe the direction of the industry and introduce bills that will keep our licensees informed, and the residents of Illinois safe.

Proposed 2024 ILCC Bills

HB 4212/SB 2625 |
Alcohol-Infused Products/Co-Branded Products

HB 5180/SB 2719 |
Second Revocation Changes

HB 5180/SB 2745
Birth Defect Warning Signs

HB 5181/SB 3359
Third-Party Retail Delivery License



Legal is Getting Automated

In an effort to streamline operations, the ILCC Legal Division is pleased to announce two enhancements to our services which are now available to licensees: 1) the ability to pay for an ILCC penalty online through MyTax Illinois, and; 2) the ability to request and schedule a Pre-Disciplinary Conference online via the ILCC website. Previously, all penalty related payments were made via check or money order sent or dropped off at the ILCC offices. Licensees were unable to pay penalties online through their MyTax Illinois accounts. Licensees who have been assessed a penalty via an Offer in Compromise, Post-Conference Letter, or a Final Order of the Commission, are now able to pay those penalties via their MyTax Illinois Account. Please note, however, that cases which are still being reviewed by the Legal Division will not be able to be paid online. Accounts may show placeholder values for these cases, but they will not appear in the online payments section of MyTax. Licensees can make payments via Credit Card or ACH withdrawal from their bank. Licensees who pay online will no longer need to send in a copy of their signed Offer in Compromise or Post-Conference Letter (licensees paying via check or money order will still be required to attach the signed Offer in Compromise or Post-Conference Letter to their payment). You can find the user guide online.

Pre-Disciplinary Conference Scheduling

The second enhancement is the ability to request and schedule a Pre-Disciplinary Conference online via the ILCC website. Licensees who receive an Offer in Compromise can request a Pre-Disciplinary Conference to discuss their case with a member of the ILCC Legal Division. Previously, this required licensees to submit the Pre-Disciplinary Conference Request form attached to an Offer in Compromise and wait to receive a notice from the Legal Division to learn the date and time for the conference. Licensees can now submit a request for a Pre-Disciplinary Conference and schedule that conference directly on the ILCC website. Licensees can schedule either an in-person conference at our Chicago office or a remote conference held via WebEx. Conferences can be requested and scheduled as follows:

- From the ILCC Legal Division page, click on the "Request Pre-Disciplinary Conference" link.
- You will be taken to a new page.
- In the "Select a Service" section, click on either "Pre-Disciplinary Conference In-Person" or "Pre-Disciplinary Conference-Virtual."
- In the "Date" and "Time" sections, select an available date and time. Unavailable dates and times will be greyed out.
- Fill in all required fields.
- Click "Book." You will then receive a confirmation e-mail with instructions.



What the ILCC Enforcement Division Does vs What the Public Thinks We Do



Working together to keep the public safe

The Division of Enforcement is tasked with conducting inspections of all licensed entities handling alcoholic beverages. The Division of Enforcement regularly works with law enforcement throughout the State in a variety of criminal and/or regulatory investigations. While the ILCC Division of Enforcement handles the regulatory side of licensed violations, working with our law enforcement partners allows municipalities to conduct criminal investigations. As a result of our commitment to ensure our team of inspectors work cohesively with law enforcement, we are regularly called upon to work with law enforcement on conducting underage compliance missions, unlicensed investigations, and investigations related to other criminal activities. Much of what ILCC Special Agents do is educate the license holder on the Liquor Control Act and help them avoid unnecessary violations. Occasionally we find an individual who attempts to circumvent the system. It was one of those individuals who brought an entire group of law enforcement professionals together, to correct their behavior. With that said the Illinois Liquor Control Commission wishes to thank the following agencies for their help in one such case.



Thank You to all our Law Enforcement partners from local municipalities, County and State of Illinois.

~Chief Sanchez~

ILCC Specials Thanks

- The Will County State's Attorney Office
- The Will County Cooperative Police Assistance Team
- Kendal County Cooperative Police Assistance Team
- Joliet Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad
- Kankakee Metropolitan Enforcement Group
- Illinois State Police
- Plainfield Police Department
- CVS Organized Retail Crime Team
- Kroger Organized Retail Crime Unit
- Frankfort Fire District

Why might the ILCC Enforcement Division be in a college town?

If you see ILCC agents in a college town, it's because we provide support upon the request of local police, campus police, and the community. An influx of complaints in any area, as it relates to alcohol, will get the attention of local police, campus police, and community members.

The decision for what age a patron must be in order to enter a campus bar is up to the local municipality and the ordinance that they have in place. The choice to drink while underage is decided by the individual. However, any establishment that serves a minor is responsible for the legal consequences that follow when caught. Any establishment that serves underage patrons should be immediately reported. You can submit a tip online.

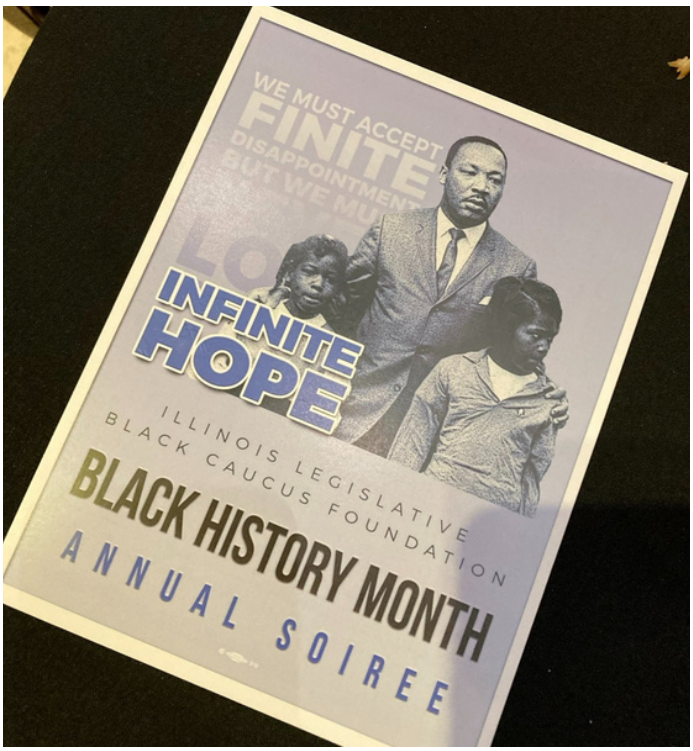


Always check for a valid ID

Illinois Black Caucus Event



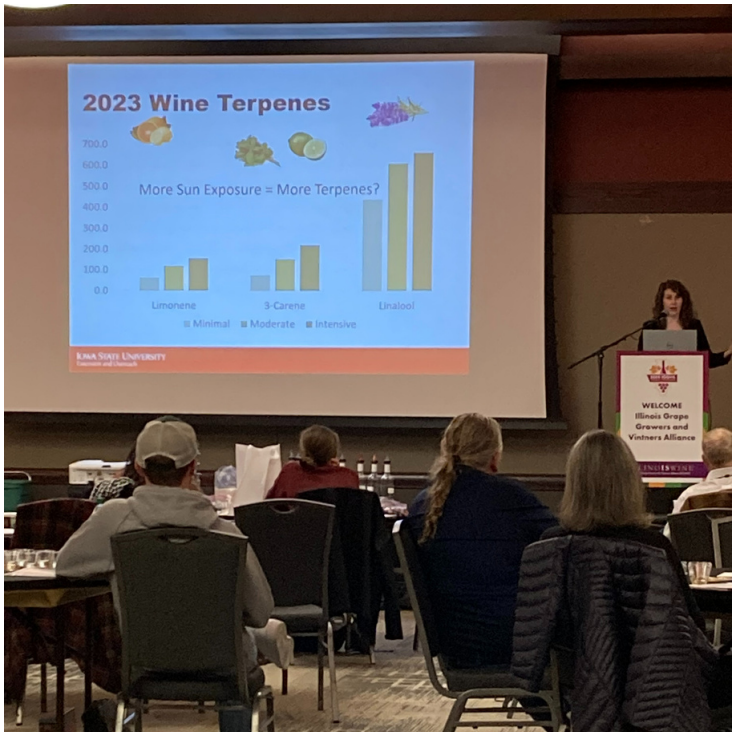




Illinois Grape Growers & Vintners Alliance (IGGVA)



> The IGGVA conference was very informative and provided a great deal of useful information for stakeholders in the wine industry.
>
> ~Nicole Sanders ~





How to File an Appeal Webinar








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UNION
NATIONAL
SOVEREIGNTY
STATE
1868
1818
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