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**State Profile****Providing Alcohol to Persons Under 21**

In every state and the District of Columbia, it is illegal for a person to provide alcohol to anyone under 21 years of age. In Missouri, exceptions are provided for medical purposes or for a parent or guardian to provide alcohol to his/her own child or ward. A violation of this law is a misdemeanor punishable by:

- A fine of \$50-\$1,000 and/or up to 1 year imprisonment.

**Allowing Alcohol Possession or Consumption by Persons Under 21 at Private Premises**

There is no specific law in place prohibiting an adult from allowing alcohol possession or consumption by individuals under the age of 21 on a premise under his/her control in Missouri. Currently, 15 states have such a law in place.

**Possession of Alcohol by Persons Under 21**

In every state and the District of Columbia, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to possess alcohol. In Missouri, exceptions allow possession for medical purposes or in the presence of a parent or guardian. A violation of this law by anyone over the age of 17 is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$50 to \$1,000 and/or up to 1 year imprisonment, plus the offender must complete a substance abuse traffic offender program. A subsequent violation is punishable by a driver's license suspension for 90 days to 1 year and a fine of \$50 to \$1,000 and/or up to year imprisonment. In addition, if under 18, the offender will have his/her driver's license suspended for the first offense for 90 days and for subsequent offenses for 1 year. If the offender is under 17, a violation of this law is a juvenile offense punishable by, at the discretion of the court, a \$25 fine, custodial arrangement, medical/psychological examination and treatment, community service, and/or driver's license suspension. There is no indication in the law that a diversion program is available for offenders.

**Purchase and Attempt to Purchase Alcohol by Persons Under 21**

Currently, 44 states and the District of Columbia have specific laws in place prohibiting an individual under the age of 21 from purchasing alcohol; and 35 states and the District of Columbia prohibit attempts to purchase alcohol. In Missouri, purchase or attempt to purchase by an individual over the age of 17 is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$50 to \$1,000, and/or up to 1 year imprisonment. If the offender is under 17, a violation of this law is a juvenile offense punishable by, at the discretion of the court, a \$25 fine, custodial arrangement, medical/psychological examination and treatment, community service, and/or driver's license suspension. There is no indication in the law that a diversion program is available for offenders.

**Consumption of Alcohol by Persons Under 21**

There is no specific law in place regarding consumption of alcohol by persons under the age of 21 in Missouri. Currently, 36 states and the District of Columbia have such a law in place.

**Misrepresentation of Age**

In 39 states and the District of Columbia, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to misrepresent his/her age to obtain alcohol. In Missouri, a violation of this law by a person over age 17 is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$50 to \$1,000 and/or up to 1 year imprisonment, plus a driver's license suspension of 90 days. A subsequent violation is punishable by a fine of \$50 to \$1,000 and/or up to 1 year imprisonment, plus a 1 year driver's license suspension. If the offender is under 17, a violation of this law is a juvenile offense punishable by, at the discretion of the court, a \$25 fine, custodial arrangement, medical/psychological examination and treatment, community service, and/or driver's license suspension. There is no indication in the law that a diversion program is available for offenders. The law is silent regarding whether a retailer may detain the offender until law enforcement officials arrive. Currently, 5 states allow retailers to detain offenders to turn them over to the proper authorities.

## Use of False Identification

In every state and the District of Columbia, the use of false identification by a person under the age of 21 is illegal. In Missouri, a violation of this law is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500 and a 90 day driver's license suspension for the first offense; and a fine of \$500 and a 1 year driver's license suspension for a subsequent violation. There is no indication in the law that a diversion program is available for offenders. The law is silent regarding whether a retailer may confiscate the false identification and/or detain the offender until law enforcement officials arrive. Currently, 6 states allow retailers to confiscate false identification and 5 states allow retailers to detain offenders to turn them over to the proper authorities.

## Transfer of Identification

There is no law in place regarding the transfer of identification to a person under the age of 21 in Missouri. Currently, 47 states have such a law in place.

## Graduated Licensing

Missouri has a graduated licensing law.

- **Instruction Permit:** In order to obtain an instruction permit, a person must be at least 15 years old, have the consent of a parent or guardian, and must pass a written test. People with an instruction permit cannot drive unsupervised.
- **Intermediate License:** May be obtained after reaching the age of 16, holding an instruction permit for at least 6 months with at least 20 hours of supervised driving, and passing a driving test.
  - **Nighttime Driving Restrictions:** Drivers with intermediate licenses must not drive between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. unless supervised.
- **Full licensure:** Driving restrictions end at the age of 18. Crashes or violations may delay the process.

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## Zero Tolerance Law

In every state it is illegal for people under the age of 21 to drive with any measurable level of alcohol in their systems. In Missouri, the penalty for violating the zero tolerance law is a driver's license suspension of 30 days, successful completion of the substance abuse traffic offender program (pay cost of attending the program plus an additional \$60 fee to the Department of Health), and a \$25 driver's license reinstatement fee. The penalty for a repeat offense is a driver's license suspension of 180 days, successful completion of a substance abuse traffic offender program (pay cost of attending the program plus an additional \$60 fee to the Department of Health), and a \$25 driver's license reinstatement fee.