

Intoxication Guidelines

In Victoria, it is an offence to supply liquor to a person who is in a state of intoxication. A person is in a state of intoxication if speech, balance, co-ordination or behaviour is noticeably affected and there are reasonable grounds for believing that this is due to consuming alcohol.

These Intoxication Guidelines provide information about how to determine if a person is intoxicated.

How can you decide if a person is intoxicated?

Working out whether a person is intoxicated is a 2-step process.

First, consider whether the person is displaying one or more of the following signs of intoxication:

- becoming loud, boisterous
- becoming argumentative
- annoying other patrons and staff
- using offensive language
- spilling drinks
- fumbling and difficulty in picking up objects
- swaying
- difficulty walking straight
- bumping into furniture or customers
- rambling conversation
- loss of train of thought
- difficulty in paying attention
- not hearing or understanding what is being said
- drowsiness or dozing while sitting at a bar or table.

Second, determine whether the signs they are showing from the list above are the result of consuming alcohol. You can do that by considering information, such as:

- the amount of alcohol you have seen the person drink
- how much other staff members have seen the person drink
- whether the person smells of alcohol.

Conditions that show similar symptoms and signs to intoxication

Sometimes, physical and mental disabilities lead to a person showing symptoms similar to alcohol intoxication. You should consider the possibility of a customer having such a condition before refusing service because you think they may be intoxicated.