



33 Cues of Intoxication

Section 801(2) of the Michigan Liquor Code states that it is illegal to sell, furnish or give alcoholic liquor to a visible intoxicated person. Administrative Rule 1005 further prohibits allowing a visible intoxicated person to continue consuming alcohol. Both the licensee and the visibly intoxicated person can be cited. It is also a violation of Rule 1005 for a licensee, or clerk, servant, agent or employee of a licensee to be in an intoxicated condition on the licensed premises. During a recent guest lecture at a local community college, students and staff offered these first-hand cues to spot potential intoxication. They agreed that early and firm action should be taken to protect the place of business and the others on the premises who should not be endangered by those who consume to excess.

Loud speech	Argumentative	Slow response to questions
Boisterous	Aggressive or belligerent	Spilling drinks, clumsy
Overly friendly to other guests and employees	Obnoxious or mean	Difficulty handling money or picking up change
Drinking alone	Making inappropriate comments	Lighting more than one cigarette or lighting the wrong end
Drinking too fast	Depressed, sullen, crying or moody	Letting a cigarette burn without smoking it
Ordering doubles	Drowsy	Difficulty standing up or walking
Careless with money	Bloodshot, glassy eyes	Bumping into things
Urging other people to have another drink	Slurred speech	Disheveled clothing or mussed hair
Annoying other guests or servers	Radical changes in behavior or voice level	Unable to sit straight in a chair or bar stool
Complaining about drink prices or drink strength	Difficulty remembering	Swaying, staggering
Paying for strangers	Unable to focus eyes or read nearby signs	Entering the wrong gender's bathroom

Members of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission Enforcement Team appreciate everyone's help in promoting safe and moderate alcohol consumption. If you witness these cues notify a manager, or the local police or the Michigan Liquor Commission, toll free at 1-866-893-2121. Thank you.

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