

Alcohol Rules in Ireland (Legal Situation)

Intoxicating Liquor Acts

Under the Intoxicating Liquor Acts, it is an offence to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18.

It is an offence to buy alcohol for people under the age of 18. It is also an offence to give alcohol to anyone under the age of 18 unless in a domestic home and they have parental consent.

If you are under 18, you cannot legally buy alcohol. Also you cannot drink it unless you are in a private residence and have permission from your parents. It is also an offence to pretend that you are over 18 in order to buy or drink alcohol.

Young people under the age of 18 are not allowed in licensed premises during extended hours

Children (anyone under the age of 18) are only allowed in licensed premises if they are with a parent or guardian, but this provision carries certain restrictions. For example if accompanied by a parent/guardian, the child may remain on the premises between the hours of 10:30am - 9pm (10pm May to September)

It is also an offence to engage in disorderly conduct on a licenced premises in Ireland. This means that you cannot behave in any way that constitutes a risk to the health, safety or welfare of anyone else on the premises. It also means that you cannot behave in a violent, threatening, abusive, insulting or quarrelsome manner. If you are requested to leave a licenced premises by the licence holder or a member of the Gardai, you must do so. Failure to leave when requested can mean you are liable for a class E fine. You may also be arrested by the Gardai.

Off-licences

Off-licence sales of alcohol is only permitted between the hours of 10.30 am and 10.00 pm on weekdays and 12.30 pm to 10.00 pm on Sundays.

It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to be in an off-licence, unless he or she is with a parent or guardian and all off-licences must display a sign to this effect.

Children

Children (anyone under the age of 18) are only allowed in licensed premises if they are with a parent or guardian,

Driving and Alcohol Limits

The legal limits for fully licenced drivers in Category B are:

- 50 milligrammes (mg) of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood (0.05)
- 67 milligrammes (mg) of alcohol per 100 millilitres of urine or
- 22 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath

The legal limits for professional, learner and novice drivers are:

- 20 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood (0.02)
- 27 milligrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of urine or
- 9 microgrammes of alcohol per 100 millilitres of breath

Driving under the influence of Alcohol

Under the [Road Traffic Act 2010](#), it is illegal to [drive or be in charge of a vehicle if you are under the influence of alcohol](#). The current legal limit is .50mgs of alcohol per 100mgs of blood in the case of experienced drivers, and .20mgs of alcohol per 100mgs of blood in the case of new and professional drivers. If you are over this limit, you are liable on summary conviction to a class A fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months. If the court decides, you could be liable to both. Anyone found driving while over the legal limit may be disqualified from driving.