



MEDIA RELEASE

Investigative Unit

Ohio Investigative Unit • Robert W. Booker Jr., Executive Director
www.oiu.ohio.gov



John Kasich, Governor Thomas P. Charles, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Julie Hinds, Public Information Officer
(614) 752-2401

September 6, 2011

REMINDER OF FIXED PRICES LAW

(Columbus) – Agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit would like to remind liquor permit holders they may not sell unlimited quantities of alcohol for a fixed price during occasions such as beer tastings and promotional events. A violation of this law may result in an administrative citation.

“We have been receiving a number of questions and complaints,” said OIU Executive Director Robert Booker. “When we hear of these events taking place, we are trying to work with permit holders to educate them on the law as well as the health and safety issues that may follow.”

Encouraging excessive consumption is another concern for offering unlimited quantities of alcohol for a fixed price. Agents may administratively charge the permit holder for encouraging excessive consumption. However, servers and patrons may also be criminally charged with either sale to an intoxicated person or public intoxication.

A sale to an intoxicated person charge may result in a third-degree misdemeanor conviction, which is punishable by not more than 60 days in jail and/or a \$500 fine. If a person is convicted of a minor misdemeanor for public intoxication, individuals may be fined \$100. However, if a person is convicted of a fourth-degree misdemeanor for public intoxication, the penalty may be 30 days in jail and/or a \$250 fine.

Permit establishments that have questions pertaining to the unlimited quantities are encouraged to schedule an Alcohol Server Knowledge (ASK) program through OIU. When agents speak with permit holders, they explain how charging a fixed price for unlimited quantities of alcohol is illegal. The agents will then offer suggestions to make the sale of alcohol legal such as selling one ticket at the price of one beer. To schedule an ASK program, log onto <http://www.investigativeunit.ohio.gov/ask.stm>.

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The Ohio Investigative Unit is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Agents are undercover sworn peace officers who enforce the state's liquor and tobacco laws, as well as food stamp fraud. Individuals who believe food stamp fraud is being committed are encouraged to contact OIU toll-free at 1-877-4MINORS. All complaints will remain anonymous.