

Title: TIPS (Training for Intervention ProcedureS) Alcohol Training

Date Approved: March 24, 2021 (Published Spring 2021)

References:

- (1) Florida Responsible Vendors Act, Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco
- (2) Elks Liability Insurance Program manual
- (3) Exalted Rulers, Lodge Officers, Committee Members manual
- (4) Responsible Beverage Service
- (5) Liquor Liability for Elks

Author: Richard Martin, PDD

DISCLAIMER

The Business Practice Committee of the B.P.O. Elks of the State of Florida has prepared this information to assist the Local Lodges of this Fraternal Order. The FSEA Business Practice Committee is neither responsible nor empowered to be responsible for the establishment of such procedures. The Business Practice Committee acts as a resource to assist Local Lodges. You should always consult your Lodge's tax and legal advisors before engaging in any endeavors or transactions to ensure compliance with Federal, State, and Local Laws.

The Importance of TIPS (Training for Intervention Procedures) Alcohol Training

The Grand Lodge has indicated in their Liability Insurance Program manual that liquor claims are few in number but cost the order many times more than any other type of claim. What should a lodge do to ensure they are not a part of the problem? To start, every lodge officer and every member of the House Committee must know the Guidelines for Service of Alcoholic Beverages as listed in the Liability Insurance Program manual. Next, each lodge should provide training for their bartenders whether they are volunteers or employees. As stated on page 27 of the Liability Insurance Program manual “Only a select number of states require that those responsible for the service of alcohol be trained and certified. However, all lodges should obtain training for any volunteers and employees responsible for the service of alcohol because such training gives servers the skills needed to avoid serving alcohol to anyone approaching intoxication.” Florida does not require training but does have the Florida Responsible Vendors Act.

To help reduce liquor claims, Florida Responsible Vendors Act and the Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco has provided guidelines on how to be a responsible vendor. Every lodge is a vendor. As stated in the Florida Responsible Vendors Act, “Responsible vendor training is a program offered to servers at bars and restaurants. Instruction is provided by private vendors who present course materials and encourage good management policy

formation. Vendors learn the laws and policies regarding serving underage patrons and serving intoxicated patrons. The effects of the training include fewer underage sales of alcohol, fewer DUI fatalities in states where training is offered, and more successful compliance with state statutes on the part of servers, who are more professional and knowledgeable when serving alcohol to patrons.”

Chapter 561.705 of Florida’s Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) describes what is required to become a responsible vendor under the Florida Responsible Vendors Act. It is quite extensive and it would be great if all lodges would become a responsible vendor. Just one claim could be in the millions. As stated in the Exalted Rulers, Lodge Officers, Committee members manual on page 22, “Lodge management must support servers when the need arises to support the policy not to serve anyone approaching intoxication; anyone who does not follow this policy should be disciplined or dismissed.” It is recommended, the Exalted Ruler and House Committee become very familiar with pages 20, 21, and 22 of the Exalted Rulers, Lodge Officers, Committee members manual.

Florida Responsible Vendors Act and the Elks Liability Insurance Program both agree on the servers of alcohol should be properly trained. TIPS (Training for Intervention ProcedureS) is a skills-based training program designed to prevent intoxication, drunk driving and underage drinking. TIPS sessions can be administered through a certified TIPS trainer or eTIPS, an online training program.

Every lodge officer and House Committee member should be very familiar with Responsible Beverage Service and Liquor Liability for Elks which is located on the Business Practices section of the Florida Elks website, floridaelks.org.

It is recommend that every server of alcoholic beverages be trained to, hopefully, prevent major verdicts against any Elks lodge. Every lodge must evaluate the risks against the lodge when dealing with alcoholic beverages. The "11C" license does not allow any lodge to serve to the public at any time except when the lodge obtains a 1, 2, or 3 day permit. With that permit, there are major requirements that must be met.

For additional information about TIPS training call (800) 438-8477 or visit gettips.com.