

# BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order  
No.207

Effective Date  
11-15-1996

Revised Date  
08-02-2006

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Subject: Offenses/ Arrest in Bars and Lounges

Reviewed 9/1/6

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## POLICY

It is the policy of this department to assist in the enforcement of all laws governing establishments regulated under the Wine, Beer and Liquor Ordinance. Investigators for the Office of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC Office) have primary responsibility for the enforcement of violations on those premises.

Officers will be in frequent contact with bars and lounges and shall enforce all City and State statutes that apply, particularly those relating to minors and disturbances.

The Department recognizes that these establishments present special hazards to officers and, therefore, caution must be used when attempting any enforcement action or answering calls for service at these establishments.

## PROCEDURES

### **I. Wine, Beer, or Liquor Ordinance Violations**

- A. If an officer has reasonable suspicion that a violation of the ABC regulations has occurred, he shall notify his supervisor and institute an investigation. The supervisor will determine whether the premises should be inspected. A report will be forwarded to the ABC Office whether a violation was found or not. An inspection of the premises (other than that portion normally open to the public) constitutes a search if an officer is expecting to locate evidence of a violation and, therefore, must be based on probable cause or an officer must first secure a search warrant.
- B. If the premises are physically inspected by an officer, uniform or plainclothes, he shall file a report of his findings **even if there are no violations noted**.
- C. If violations are observed the appropriate citation(s) will be issued to the owner, manager or bartender, whoever is in charge at that time.

### **II. Closing Law Violations**

If an officer observes a violation of the closing law he may (at his discretion) issue a verbal warning to the person in charge of the premises or issue the appropriate citation. A report must be filed in either case.

### **III. Disorderly Conduct/Criminal Violation**

- A. It is the responsibility of the person in charge of the premises (owner, manager, bar maid, etc.) to notify the police department of any disorderly conduct or criminal activity at a bar or lounge. An officer who is dispatched to such an establishment shall exercise extreme caution, as the situation may quickly escalate.

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- B. Two or more officers should be dispatched to the scene of a reported disturbance at a bar or lounge. This includes bars and lounges at hotels/motels.

**IV. Known or Suspected Juveniles in Bar or Lounge**

- A. If an officer suspects or receives a report of juveniles frequenting a bar or lounge, he will notify his supervisor who will initiate an investigation. If there is a reasonable suspicion that juveniles are in the establishment at the time of the report, a check of the premises shall be conducted for any underage patrons.
- B. Any information regarding juveniles in bars or lounges shall be referred to the Juvenile Division and the ABC Office, whether or not juveniles are located when the facility is checked.

**V. Known or Suspected Weapons/Narcotics Activity In Bar or Lounge**

- A. If an officer suspects or receives a report of persons who are possessing weapons or narcotics frequenting a bar or lounge, he will notify his supervisor. The supervisor will determine the course of the investigation:
  - 1. Refer to the appropriate division for follow up.
  - 2. Physically inspect the premises.
- B. If the premises are to be inspected the investigation will proceed as in section (1) one above. Once again, even if no weapons or narcotics are found, a report shall be filed.