

Robson Forensic

Engineers, Architects, Scientists & Fire Investigators

DRAM SHOP DEFENSE

Expert Investigates Alcohol Service to Minor

A mother was killed when a drunk driver crashed into her vehicle. The crash was caused by a minor who had been served alcohol earlier in the evening at a local night club. Robson Forensic Dram Shop/Bar Operations expert, Elizabeth Trendowski, was retained to determine if the nightclub followed industry standard of care guidelines when they granted the minor entry into their establishment.

The minor used fraudulent identification to gain entry into the night club. The identification card presented by the minor was an authentic, state issued ID card that was legally issued to an older friend of the minor. Eyewitness testimony confirmed that night club security performed a thorough ID verification at the door, including talking to the patron to verify personal information and using a certified identification guidebook.

Our bar operations expert opined that an establishment may not be liable in some instances where fraudulent identification is used by minors to gain access to alcohol. In some occasions, where an individual uses an authentic state-issued identification card, diligent execution of industry standard of care guidelines may not capture all offenders. Our expert successfully demonstrated that the night club followed industry standards in checking identification of their patrons and was not liable for this incident.

This matter resolved favorably for our client.

DRAM SHOP/LIQUOR LIABILITY EXPERT

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