NEW PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS

Please be advised that it is the Pennsylvania State Police, Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement (BLCE), and not the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB), which enforces the liquor laws in Pennsylvania. Further, information provided below is not binding on the BLCE and is offered for information and guidance only.

Generally, bringing any liquor (including wine) into Pennsylvania is illegal, with limited exceptions. Section 491(11) of the Liquor Code prohibits any person other than the PLCB, the holder of a sacramental wine license, importer’s license, or a direct wine shipper license, from bringing alcohol into Pennsylvania. 47 P.S. § 4-491(11). Similarly, section 491(2) of the Liquor Code prohibits any person other than the PLCB, a manufacturer, the holder of a sacramental wine license, or of an importer license, from possessing or transporting any liquor or wine within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which has not been purchased from the PLCB, a licensed limited winery, a licensed limited distillery, a licensed distillery, a licensed direct wine shipper, or a wine expanded permittee. 47 P.S. §§ 4-415, 4-488, 4-491(2), 5-505.2, 5-505.4.

A person who is moving into Pennsylvania is allowed, under section 9.46 of the PLCB’s Regulations, to bring with him or her liquor and wine owned and possessed by him or her in his or her out-of-state residence for personal use, so long as that liquor and wine will not be resold in Pennsylvania. Such importation must be approved in advance by and coordinated through the PLCB. 40 Pa. Code § 9.46. Similar exceptions exist for inherited liquor and gift liquor.

Please note that malt or brewed beverages are not covered by section 9.46 of the PLCB’s Regulations. For importing malt or brewed beverages, see Bringing Beer Into Pennsylvania.