

Many of you are probably wondering what a dram shop is. Dram shop is a legal term referring to bars, taverns, liquor stores and other places where alcoholic beverages are sold. Traditionally, the word dram referred to place where alcohol was sold by the “dram”, a small unit of liquid.

Originally, these laws were put in place to change the behavior of individual drinkers, but have morphed into protecting the public from the irresponsible selling of alcohol to minors or visibly intoxicated people.

Under dram shop liability laws, it’s possible for bar owners and servers to be held responsible if they serve alcohol to a minor or someone who is already intoxicated, and that person in turn injures or kills a third party as a result of driving drunk or other incidents such as assaults. The wounded party must provide evidence that the serving or selling of the alcohol was the proximate cause of their injuries. If their case can be proven, they are entitled to compensation for their injuries.

Dram shop violations may include:

- Over service of alcohol
- Selling alcohol to a minor
- Selling alcohol without a license
- Selling alcohol without checking ID
- Selling alcohol after hours

MBC has helped many victims who have been injured because of the over service of alcohol.

Our law firm represented the family of a teenage girl who died in a head-on collision. The driver had been served an unlawful amount of alcohol at a nearby tavern immediately prior to the collision. We secured nearly \$1 million from the tavern for their liability in causing the death.

In another case, our client’s husband was struck and killed by an underinsured drunk driver. Our lawyers proved that a local restaurant over served the drunk driver alcohol and that he was stumbling drunk when he left. We demonstrated that the unlawful over service by the restaurant was responsible for the drunk driver that killed our client’s husband. The deceased man’s family received a \$2 million settlement.

If you’ve been injured by someone who was intoxicated, consider the personal injury attorneys at Messina Bulzomi Christensen. Call for a free consultation and we’ll find out if you have a dram shop claim on your hands.