



# PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

## Ron Szumelda

By: Rosemarie Stephens

Serving Northwest Indiana is something Ron Szumelda has been doing for decades. In fact, for 30 years he bartended at more than 20 different venues including

nightclubs, sports bars, banquet halls and restaurants. To say Szumelda has seen it all when it comes to intoxicated drinkers is an understatement, and it's why he decided to start a business where he could teach others servers how to be more educated in knowing when not to serve those who've had too much. "Three years ago I started saving lives with my business," Szumelda said. "I've trained over 3,500 people on the difference between tending bar and being a professional bartender."

Alcohol Training Day, LLC is owned and operated by Szumelda. He's an Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC) approved trainer for the state-mandated alcohol server training program. What he does is certify bartenders and waiters to be able to serve liquor, and he comes to your establishment to do it. "I go all around Northwest Indiana to different restaurants and bars and teach their employees the proper skills needed," he said. "The course is about an hour and a half long, and it focuses on areas like handling intoxicated people, how to spot a fake ID, how to tell if someone is mixing drugs and alcohol, and how to handle the different mood swings an intoxicated person has."

As a server, it can be difficult to tell what your customers are up to at all times, that's why it's so important to learn these potential lifesaving skills. Szumelda's PowerPoint presentation goes over a wide array of symptoms and signs of intoxication, and how to tell the difference between some commonly known causes. "Someone can have red blood shot eyes but that doesn't necessarily mean they are intoxicated, they could just be tired or have allergies," he said. "My job is to teach these servers and bartenders that there are multiple signs of intoxication, and it's important to know what they all are."

The course offered by Alcohol Training Day, LLC certifies servers in accordance with Indiana State Law and upon completion is valid for 3 years. The training is actually mandated by the state, and when you take the course with Szumelda, you learn everything you need to know without even realizing you are taking a class. "I put a dash of humor and bring my experiences to the table during my presentations; people like my props and my approach on the topic" he said. "I consider myself to be the most educated and recognized trainer in the industry."

And since Szumelda will travel throughout the region, restaurant and bar owners can take comfort in the fact that their employees are being trained properly in the confines of their own establishment. "Face to face training is the best way to protect your business," he said. "And protecting their business is exactly what these owners are doing because I'm educating their staff on a lot of valuable information they might not get from another class."

The course is broken down into specific sections covering the following concepts:

- Understanding your legal responsibilities and liabilities as a server.
- Reviewing Indiana's specific laws and rules regarding alcohol service, sale and consumption.
- How to recognize and question the authenticity of forms of identification.
- Understanding how alcohol affects the body and its implications.
- Recognizing the signs of intoxication.
- Skills for handling situations involving intoxicated persons.

For those servers who started working after January 1, 2011, this course must be completed within 120 days after employment. If you are a server who needs to take this course, Szumelda will work on finding a class and time that works for you. He does about three classes a week, and has seen people drive in from as far as Rensselaer and Lafayette.

For more information, or to schedule a training session, visit [www.alcoholtrainingday.com](http://www.alcoholtrainingday.com) or call Ron Szumelda at 219.743.1815.