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Violation of Good Friday Alcohol Restrictions in U.S. Virgin Islands Could Result in Fine or Imprisonment

Community Center / **Published On April 03, 2023 02:41 PM /**

Staff Consortium **April 03, 2023**

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Wooden cross with crown of thorns hammer and bloody nails representing crucifix of Jesus Christ. By. GETTY IMAGES

The V.I. Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs has issued a reminder to business owners and the general public of the restrictions in place on the sale of alcohol on Good Friday.

According to Virgin Islands Code Title 1, Chapter 11, Subsection 171(b), distilled liquor and drinks prepared with it are prohibited from being served in public places of refreshment between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Good Friday.

DLCA's restriction includes spirits such as brandy, whiskey, rum, gin, and vodka, which have a high alcohol content due to their distillation process. On the other hand, beverages such as beer,

wine, and cider, which are fermented and have a relatively low alcohol content of less than 15%, are not affected by this restriction. Local cordials, including Pina Coladas, Coquito, and Guavaberry, are also not affected.

The penalty for violating the above subsection is a fine of up to \$200, imprisonment for up to a year, or both. DLCA Commissioner Richard Evangelista urges the public to report any business observed in violation of this law to the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs Alcohol Control Unit via cell at 340-725-6068 or by calling 340-713-3522.

DLCA said it has been consistent in enforcing this restriction on Good Friday to preserve the significance of the day, which is observed by Christians worldwide to commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.

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