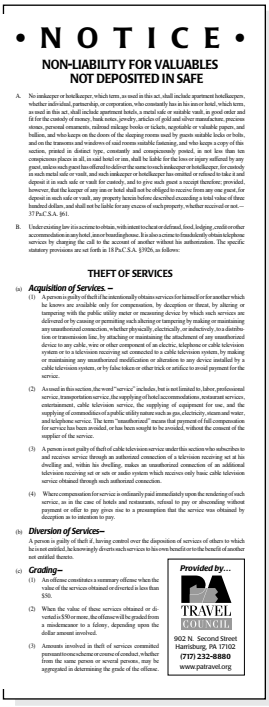
INNKEEPER NON-LIABILITY CARDS



• NOTICE •

NON-LIABILITY FOR VALUABLES NOT DEPOSITED IN SAFE

A. No innkeeper or hotelkeeper, which term, as used in this act, shall include apartment hotelkeepers, whether individual, partnership, or corporation, who constantly has in his inn or hotel, which term, as used in this act, shall include apartment hotels, a metal safe or suitable vault, as good order and fit for the custody of money, bank notes, jewelry, articles of gold and silver manufacture, precious stones, personal ornaments, railroad mileage books or tickets, negotiable or valuable papers, and bullion, and who keeps on the doors of the sleeping rooms used by guests suitable locks or bolts, and on the transoms and windows of said rooms suitable fastenings, and who keeps a copy of this section, printed in distinct type, constantly and conspicuously posted, in not less than ten conspicuous places in all, in said hotel or inn, shall be liable for the loss or injury suffered by any guest, unless such guest has offered to deliver the same to such innkeeper or hotelkeeper, for custody in such metal safe or vault, and such innkeeper or hotelkeeper has omitted or refused to take it and deposit it in such safe or vault for custody, and to give such guest a receipt therefore; provided, however, that the keeper of any inn or hotel shall not be obliged to receive from any one guest, for deposit in such safe or vault, any property herein before described exceeding a total value of three hundred dollars, and shall not be liable for any excess of such property, whether received or not. -- 37 PaC.S.A. §61.

B. Under existing law it is a crime to obtain, with intent to cheat or defraud, food, lodging, credit or other accommodation at any hotel, inn or boarding house. It is also a crime to fraudulently obtain telephone services by charging the call to the account of another without his authorization. The specific statutory provisions are set forth in 18 Pa.C.S.A. §3926, as follows:

THEFT OF SERVICES

(a) *Acquisition of Services.* –

(1) A person is guilty of theft if he intentionally obtains services for himself or for another which he knows are available only for compensation, by deception or threat, by altering or tampering with the public utility meter or measuring device by which such services are delivered or by causing or permitting such altering or tampering by making or maintaining any unauthorized connection, whether physically, electrically, or inductively, to a distribution or transmission line, by attaching or maintaining the attachment of any unauthorized device to any cable, wire or other component of an electric, telephone or cable television system or to a television receiving set connected to a cable television system, by making or maintaining any unauthorized modification or alteration to any device installed by a cable television system, or by false token or other trick or artifice to avoid payment for the service.

(2) As used in this section, the word "service" includes, but is not limited to, labor, professional service, transportation service, the supplying of hotel accommodations, restaurant services, entertainment, cable television service, the supplying of equipment for use, and the supplying of commodities of a public utility nature such as gas, electricity, steam and water, and telephone service. The term "unauthorized" means that payment of full compensation for service has been avoided, or has been sought to be avoided, without the consent of the supplier of the service.

(3) A person is not guilty of theft of cable television service under this section who subscribes to and receives service through an authorized connection of a television receiving set at his dwelling and, within his dwelling, makes an unauthorized connection of an additional television receiving set or sets or audio system which receives only basic cable television service obtained through such authorized connection.

(4) Where compensation for service is ordinarily paid immediately upon the rendering of such service, as in the case of hotels and restaurants, refusal to pay or absconding without payment or offer to pay gives rise to a presumption that the service was obtained by deception as to intention to pay.

(b) *Diversion of Services.*–

A person is guilty of theft if, having control over the disposition of services of others to which he is not entitled, he knowingly diverts such services to his own benefit or to the benefit of another not entitled thereto.

(c) *Grading.*–

(1) An offense constitutes a summary offense when the value of the services obtained or diverted is less than $50.

(2) When the value of these services obtained or diverted is $50 or more, the offense will be graded from a misdemeanor to a felony, depending upon the dollar amount involved.

(3) Amounts involved in theft of services committed pursuant to one scheme or course of conduct, whether from the same person or several persons, may be aggregated in determining the grade of the offense.

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