



USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT PARISH OR ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

POLICY

Alcoholic beverages may be served for consumption at events primarily for adults sponsored by Parishes and other entities of the Archdiocese of Miami consistent with the limitation and guidelines provided in this policy, any additional State or municipal regulations and the Archdiocese of Miami Employee Handbook.

PROCEDURE

Conditions Under Which Alcoholic Beverages May Be Served

- The parish, school or Archdiocesan entity sponsoring the event at which alcoholic beverages are to be served, either free or sold, must have the permission of the pastor, administrator or agency director.
- Alcoholic beverages must be clearly identified as containing alcohol. Non-alcoholic alternative must be offered with equal accessibility.
- It is strongly discouraged to allow alcohol to be served or brought into an event by attendees when the event is primarily for children or youth (such as elementary or high school events, parish youth events).
- Persons serving or selling alcohol at the event must be at least 25 years old. They should receive training prior to their service regarding the need for checking proof of age and the prohibition from serving persons who appear to be intoxicated.
- Bring your own bottle (BYOB) events are prohibited.
- Containers of alcohol served at the event should be consumed at the event. Guests should not leave the premises with any alcoholic beverages distributed at the event.
- Advertisement for the event should focus on the purpose of the event/fund raising/celebration, etc. rather than the availability of alcoholic beverages. In the event advertising, it is acceptable to say that “Beverages are Available” or “Positive ID Required.”

Regulations

Florida has separate regulations for profit and not-for-profit organizations. Because the Archdiocese and the entities within the Archdiocese are not-for-profit, they must first obtain from the Florida Department of Revenue a temporary one- to three-day permit to serve alcohol if the alcohol is **sold**. It does not matter whether the event is open only to members of a group, such as Knights of Columbus, or open to the public. Special events are not the only occasions subject to the regulation requiring permits. Any time alcohol is available for purchase, the permit requirement applies. If a parish group has a meeting or social dinner and desires to serve alcohol, they must provide the alcohol free or obtain a permit.

Importantly, a permit is not required of the entity if the alcohol is purchased and served by a caterer with a caterer’s alcoholic beverage license.



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The regulations only allow (3) three temporary permits per year per organization. Thus, each entity or Parish should apply for the permit in its own name, not in the name of the Archdiocese. These permits can be obtained through the Florida Department of Revenue. The website for the Department is located <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/index.html>. Please note that Churches are exempt from collecting sales tax on the sale of goods and services (including food and beverage). However, non-Church entities including schools must collect and remit sales tax on the sale of goods and services (including food and beverage).

Social Host Responsibility

Social hosts are generally exempt from tort liability. Notwithstanding, intoxicated persons are more prone to injury, more likely to damage property, and more likely to make defamatory or harassing statements. For these reasons, the decision to serve alcohol should be a carefully considered decision and the consumption of alcohol should be responsibly monitored.

The safer choice is not to serve alcohol on Archdiocesan property. At the very least, the Parishes should carefully weigh the benefits of serving alcohol against the potential harm. If alcohol is to be served, you must:

- prohibit serving alcohol to minors;
- promote responsible use of alcohol;
- avoid serving alcohol to one who appears to be intoxicated; and
- monitor consumption by those of legal age, taking action as needed.

Initial:

Current: January, 2014