

## **Parish Administration – Alcohol Policy**

To clarify when alcohol would be allowed at a Parish or School event, please see “*Exhibit 26: Diocese of Fall River Alcohol Policy*”.

[Please note that all questions related to **Parish Administration – Alcohol Policy** should be directed to the Finance Department – See Exhibit  for a list of Chancery Staff ]

# DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

## ALCOHOL POLICY

To clarify when alcohol would be allowed at a Parish or School event, please review the following guidelines:

- Provide information regarding the planned event to the Chancellor's and Risk Manager's office.
- Confirm with your Town/City if a liquor license is required for the event and provide documentation to the Chancellor's and Risk Manager's office. A license may not be needed for a smaller event not open to the public where alcohol is served and not sold, such as a retirement party. Confirm with your Town/City prior to the event.
- MA law states that if a one-day permit is granted, alcohol must be purchased from a licensed supplier, not a package store, grocery store, or through donations. A list of licensed suppliers is available on the state's licensing web page:
  1. Enter <https://elicensing.mass.gov/CitizenAccess> in the address bar
  2. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to General Information and click on "Search for a Commonwealth Licensee"
  3. Under the -Search for Licensee- section select:
    1. Licensing Entity – select Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
    2. License Type- Wholesaler
    3. City- If you City is not listed enter in the largest City nearest you
- For events where tickets are sold and the public is invited, discuss with your local police department to determine if a police detail is necessary
- No alcohol to be served at elementary or secondary schools or youth athletic events.
- No alcohol is to be brought to the event by guests.
- There is no tolerance for underage drinking of any kind or any amount, not even a sip.
- Alcohol to be served only by a licensed bartender or an individual over 21 with sufficient training and is proficient in serving alcohol and accompanying responsibilities
- Servers must check a customer's ID before serving. No redeemable tickets for alcohol are to be used.

- Multiple drinks should not be served at the same time for one person to consume.
- Drinks are to be carefully measured, and no doubles of any drink are to be served. Standard serving sizes are no more than:
  - 1 ½ ounces of distilled spirits
  - 5 ounces of wine
  - 12 ounces of beer
- Provide food before any alcohol is available.
- If alcohol is to be used as a raffle prize or a giveaway item, it can only be won by an adult and only given to the winner at the end of the event. It cannot be consumed on-site.
- Alcohol service is to end at least 1 1/2 hours before the end of an event. Coffee and food is to still be served during this time.
- A pre-existing plan to handle those in a diminished or incapacitated state needs to be in place:
  - Alternate methods of transportation home for a diminished or incapacitated individual must be planned for before the event.
  - A method to stop an individual's consumption if they have had too much to drink in the opinion of the bartender handling the event or if they exhibit slurred speech, staggering stumbling behavior, or poor motor skill coordination

These guidelines must be conveyed to all non-English-speaking guests.

Please note insurance coverage is not provided for any loss resulting from “the selling, serving or giving of any alcoholic beverage to a person under the influence of alcohol or which causes or contributes to the intoxication of this person or to a person under the legal drinking age.” However, coverage is provided if the alcohol is given, served, or sold at a “scheduled social function” that is “an integral part of the insured’s parochial or diocesan activities.”

What would be considered an “integral activity?” A religious function or celebration, a Parish Festival/Feast or a School fundraiser are examples of an integral activity. Volunteers cleaning parish grounds or emptying out an unused building and drinking afterward would not be considered “integral activities.”