

Roman Catholic Diocese of Dallas Policy on Alcohol Service for Church/School Events

The serving of alcoholic beverages on church/school property is restricted to beer and wine only and limited to special occasions approved by the Pastor / Principal. Alcohol service is only allowed if served along with food and non-alcoholic beverages. Alcohol service must end at least one hour prior to the end of the event. Under no circumstances will alcohol be served to anyone under the age of 21. At no time are attendees allowed to bring their own alcoholic beverages to an event.

Attendance at any event by employees where alcohol is served is strictly voluntary. All employees attending these events will be relieved of all job related duties during and following the event.

Non-Parish Based sponsoring organizations or persons must maintain the appropriate liability insurance or take out the special events insurance policy available from the Diocesan Risk Management Office and provide a mature person(s) 21 years of age or older to be responsible for serving the beverages and monitoring the conduct of the attendees. Sponsoring organizations are encouraged to have servers participate in an approved TABC alcohol service training course. Alcohol servers are not permitted to consume alcohol during the event.

Drinking alcohol to "excess" by any attendee is unacceptable at any event. Attendees are expected to conduct themselves responsibly at all times. All alcohol servers must be instructed not to serve anyone who appears intoxicated. Parish / School employees that serve alcohol at events are encouraged to participate in an approved TABC alcohol service training course. Employees serving alcohol are not permitted to consume alcohol during the event.

The number of drinks provided for free should be limited utilizing drink tickets or another informal method of tracking the amount of alcohol served. "Open Bars" are strongly discouraged. Planning for Alternative Transportation options MUST be conducted prior to any event. i.e. designated non-drinking drivers, cabs, etc. All employees and non-parish based sponsoring organizations are advised to INSIST on alternative transportation to anyone visibly impaired or intoxicated.

Individuals responsible for coordinating the event and their designees must take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent an impaired or intoxicated person from operating a vehicle, up to and including contacting local law enforcement. The cost of alternative transportation should be reimbursed by the sponsoring organization or person. At no time will employees be allowed to operate a Diocesan vehicle impaired in any way by alcohol.

All applicable state / local laws and ordinances pertaining to alcohol service must be observed. If alcohol, including beer and wine, is sold or if there is a door charge, dinner charge, donation container, etc, licensing and permitting may be required. At church-sponsored events not held on church property, the hotel, restaurant, or caterer is responsible for oversight and compliance with Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission requirements for alcohol use.

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