

# UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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## Reception Center License Summary

*Note: This is general information only and should not be considered conclusive.  
For further details, please consult Title 32B of the Utah Code and/or the Rules of the Commission*

**The primary purpose of the Reception Center license** is leasing its facility to a third party for a contracted (not open to the public) banquet or event that also allows the storage, sale, service, and consumption of liquor, wine, heavy beer, and beer on its premises. The reception center must be at least 5000 square feet and have culinary facilities that are adequate to prepare full meals on the premises (or under the control) of the Reception Center. Alcoholic beverages at a Reception Center may be sold on any day from 10 a.m. until 1 a.m.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEPTION CENTERS

### Contract Required

A reception center licensee may only serve alcoholic beverages pursuant to a contract between the Reception Center Licensee and a third party to provide alcoholic beverages at a variety of private functions to be held on a specific date and time for a pre-arranged negotiated price. The event may include a hosted bar or a cash bar.

### Yearly Alcohol Sales Percentage Restriction

A reception center licensee may only have 30% of its total annual receipts from the sale of an alcoholic product, which includes:

- Mix for an alcoholic product; or
- A charge in connection with the furnishing of an alcoholic product.
- Expensive wines in excess of \$250 per bottle are not included in calculating the food to alcohol ratio.



### Supervision

- A licensee's employee must remain at an event when alcoholic beverages are being sold, served, and consumed.

## **Sales and Consumption Hours**

- Alcoholic beverages may be sold on any day from 10 a.m. until 1 a.m.
- The alcoholic beverage storage area must remain locked at times when alcohol sales are not permitted. The licensee may open the liquor storage area during hours otherwise prohibited for the limited purpose of inventory, restocking, repair, and cleaning.
- *Hours of Consumption:* Patrons may not consume an alcoholic product on the premises after 2 a.m. and before 10:00 a.m.

## **Sale and Service of Alcoholic Beverages at a Banquet**

### **Liquor Sales**

- The primary liquor in a mixed drink may be dispensed from any size bottle, but only in quantities **not to exceed** 1.5 ounces through a department approved calibrated metered dispensing system or device.
- Liquor used as a secondary flavoring need not be dispensed through the dispensing system. Liquor stored and used as flavorings must be clearly labeled "flavoring".
- The total amount of spirituous liquor in a beverage (including both the primary liquor and any secondary flavorings) may not exceed 2.5 ounces of spirituous liquor.

### **Wine Sales**

- Wine may be sold and served by the bottle or container in sizes not exceeding 1.5 liters.
- Wine may be served by the glass or individual portion in quantities not exceeding 5 ounces.
- An individual portion (i.e. flights) may be served to a patron in more than one glass as long as the total amount of wine in the individual portion does not exceed 5 ounces.
- Wine may be poured by the glass from any size bottle or container and need not be dispensed through a dispensing device.
- Event attendees who have purchased bottled wine may serve themselves or others at their table.

### **Heavy Beer Sales**

- Heavy beer may be served in original containers not exceeding one liter.

### **Flavored Malt Beverage Sales**

- Flavored malt beverages may be served in original containers not exceeding one liter.

### **Beer Sales**

- Light beer may be served in any size container not exceeding 2 liters and on draft. Beer may be sold by the pitcher (up to two liters) to two or more patrons, but may be sold to an individual patron only in a container that does not exceed one liter.

## **Service of Alcoholic Beverages to Patrons**

- Patrons may not consume at a bar structure.

## **Dispensing and Storage of Alcoholic Beverages**

- A reception center licensee may only dispense alcoholic beverages and store the in-service working inventory of alcoholic beverages in an area that is separated from the dining, staging, lobby, or waiting areas by a solid, translucent, permanent structural barrier so that the dispensing or storage of alcohol is not readily visible and accessible to patrons.
- A reception center may dispense from a mobile serving area that is moved only by staff of the center, can be moved by one person, and is no larger than 6' long and 30" wide.

## **Limitation on Total Number of Drinks**

- Each event attendee may have no more than two drinks before the patron at a time.

## **Discounting Practices Prohibited**

- Alcoholic beverages may not be sold at a discount at any time.
- Other discounting practices are prohibited that encourage over-consumption of alcohol (i.e. happy hour, two for ones, free alcohol, or selling at less than cost).
- A reception center licensee or employee may not purchase an alcoholic beverage for a patron.

## **Consumption on the premises**

- The host, patrons, or persons other than the center licensee may not remove alcohol from the premises.

## **“Brown Bagging”**

- Patrons may not bring any alcoholic beverages into or onto the premises of a reception center.

## **Unsold Alcoholic Beverages**

- Unsold alcoholic beverages may not be left at an event at its conclusion.
- Alcoholic beverages that are open and unused that are *not* in saleable condition shall be destroyed.
- Unopened alcoholic beverages or alcoholic beverages that are open and unused that *are* in saleable condition shall be returned to the reception center licensee’s approved locked storage area and may be used at more than one banquet

## **Advance Notice of Scheduled Events**

- Reception center licensees shall file with the department at the beginning of each quarter a report containing advance notice of events or functions to be held under a contract that have been scheduled for that quarter.

## **Warning Sign**

- Each reception center licensee shall prominently display at each event, a sign in at least half inch bold letters stating: *“WARNING - Drinking alcoholic beverages during pregnancy can cause birth defects and permanent brain damage for the child. Call the Utah Department of Health at 1-800-822-2229 with questions or for more information. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is a serious crime that is prosecuted aggressively in Utah.”*

## **Advertising**

- The advertising of alcoholic beverages must comply with the guidelines in Rule R81-1-17 which may be viewed at: <http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r081/r081-01.htm#T16>

## **Employees**

- Any employee handling alcoholic beverages must be twenty one years of age or older.
- Servers of alcohol must wear a unique identification badge showing the employee's first name, initials, or a number assigned by the employer.
- Employees may not consume or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages while on duty.
- Managers, supervisors, and employees who serve alcohol must take and pass an alcohol server training seminar every three years and must complete the training within 30 days of commencing employment.
- Any employee who sells or serves alcoholic beverages does so under the direction and supervision of the reception center licensee.

## **Employee Fines**

- The commission is authorized to assess an administrative fine against an officer, employee, or agent of a licensee for a violation of the alcoholic beverage laws.

## **Minors**

- Minors may be employed by a reception center licensee, but may not sell, serve, or dispense alcoholic beverages.
- Minors may not be employed at an event if no food is available.
- The center may not sell or furnish alcohol at an event at which a minor is present unless food is available at all times when alcohol is sold, furnished or consumed at the event.

## **Bad Checks**

- The DABC may immediately suspend the license if it receives a bad check as payment for liquor, licensing or bond fees, fines and costs for violations.

## **Prohibited Conduct**

- Lewd acts, attire, and sexually oriented conduct of employees and entertainers that are considered contrary to public welfare and morals are prohibited on the premises. See Utah Code Section 32B-1-501 through 506 which may be viewed at: <http://www.le.utah.gov/UtahCode/section.jsp?code=32B-1>

## **Gambling**

- Reception center licensees may not engage in or permit any form of gambling on its premises.