

Subject: Alcohol Permitting Requirements – Anne Arundel County

Dear AA County Locations:

I received an inquiry today regarding the requirements for serving alcohol at events held on a parish or school campus in Anne Arundel County. Since it had been some time since I last reviewed the County code, I revisited the applicable regulations.

Anne Arundel County maintains one of the more restrictive positions on alcohol at events. Based on the County's guidance on one-day liquor licenses, a permit is required in essentially all circumstances where alcohol is present at an organized gathering on non-residential property.

In summary, a **One-Day Liquor License is required for:**

1. Any event hosted by a bona fide non-profit organization where alcohol is served or consumed **and participants are charged** (e.g., ticketed events, cash bars).
2. Any event hosted by a non-profit organization where alcohol is served or consumed **even if no money is charged** (e.g., donor receptions).
3. Any event where **three or more individuals** gather and consume alcohol on property **other than a private residence** (including parish or school property). Notably, three organizers must be listed on the license.

Given these provisions, **any event involving alcohol on parish or school property—whether hosted by the parish, school, or a third party—requires a One-Day Liquor License.**

While the first requirement aligns with typical regulations in many jurisdictions (i.e., alcohol tied to a fee), Anne Arundel County goes further by requiring permits even when alcohol is provided free of charge. The third provision is particularly broad and raises practical questions about enforcement, as it applies to nearly any small gathering not held in a private home.

Importantly, this interpretation also means that **BYOB events would still require a permit.**

Separately, our guidance remains **not to host BYOB events**. Even when the organization does not supply the alcohol, liability risks remain if an attendee over-consumes and causes harm. Attempts to control BYOB alcohol (e.g., check-in systems) introduce additional legal and operational risks, including potential disputes over access to personal property.

Bottom line:

Regardless of how alcohol is provided—sold, free, or BYOB—if it is consumed on parish or school property in Anne Arundel County, a One-Day Liquor License is required.

If there are any questions, please reach out to me or to the AA County Liquor Board email:

lqinfo@aacounty.org, (410) 222-1148 [Board of License Commissioners](#).

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Director of Risk Management
ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE