

## **MOBILE BARTENDING**

### **Can I operate a mobile bartending service that also provides alcohol?**

No. Licenses and permits for the retail sale of alcohol, including malt and brewed beverages, are issued for use at specific premises. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (“PLCB”) does not offer a license that would be applicable to mobile bartending services. Therefore, while you may offer bartending services for hire, you may not provide the alcohol in conjunction with your services; rather, the alcohol must be provided by the person or group requesting your bartending services. You may not sell the alcohol used or presented, otherwise this could be construed as the unlawful sale of alcohol.

### **Do I need a license to provide bartending services only?**

No, the PLCB does not regulate bartending services. If you are not providing or transporting the alcohol in question, then no license would be required. You could be paid by a licensee or someone else to provide bartending services; however, any alcohol used as part of your service would have to be lawfully acquired and transported. Additionally, no alcohol may be served to any minor or visibly intoxicated person. 47 P.S. § 4-493(1).

### **Can the client for whom I am providing bartending services sell tickets or otherwise charge a fee to persons wishing to attend their event?**

In Pennsylvania, the sale of alcohol by anyone is prohibited, unless the seller holds a valid license or permit issued by the PLCB. 47 P.S. § 4-491(1). The Liquor Code broadly defines a “sale” as any transfer of liquor, alcohol or malt or brewed beverages for a consideration. 47 P.S. § 1-102.

There is nothing in the Liquor Code or the PLCB’s Regulations that prohibits a non-licensed person or entity from giving away free alcohol, and there are no limitations as to the type or amount of alcohol that a non-licensed person or entity may give away. However, the alcohol provided must truly be free. In other words, the

provision of alcohol cannot be predicated upon the purchase of a meal, an admission ticket, donation, payment of any other fee, etc.

Anyone who is twenty-one years of age or older and who is not visibly intoxicated must be able to request and receive the complimentary alcoholic beverages. Otherwise, the persons or entities providing the alcohol could be charged with selling alcohol without a license in violation of the Liquor Code. Thus, if the purchase of a meal, and admission ticket, donation, or payment of any other fee is necessary to obtain access to alcoholic beverages at your event, this would be considered a sale of alcohol and must be done pursuant to an applicable license or [permit](#).

### **Do I need to be RAMP-certified to provide bartending services?**

RAMP certification is only required of “alcohol service personnel,” which is defined in the Liquor Code as follows:

[A]ny employee of a licensee such as a bartender, waiter or, in the case of a distributor or importing distributor, a salesperson whose primary responsibility includes the resale, furnishing or serving of liquor or malt or brewed beverages. It shall also mean any employee, such as a doorperson, whose primary responsibility is to ascertain the age of individuals who are attempting to enter the licensed premises.

47 P.S. § 1-102.

As the PLCB does not regulate bartending services, RAMP training is not required but is considered a best practice and is encouraged.

Please note that if you are providing bartending services for a licensed entity, either at their main location or as part of an off-premises catered function, this would require anyone serving alcohol at such events to be RAMP-trained. 47 P.S. §§ 4-406(f)(2), 4-471.1(h)

### **Am I allowed to deliver alcohol to my clients as part of the bartending services I am providing?**

In order to transport your client's alcohol as part of the services you are being paid to provide for your client, you will need to obtain a transporter-for-hire license. 47 P.S. § 5-501. To apply for a transporter-for-hire license, please refer to [PLCB+](#).

**Am I allowed to store alcohol for my clients as part of the bartending services I am providing?**

In order to store your client's alcohol overnight, either before or after their event, as part of the services you are being paid to provide for your client, you will need to obtain a bailee-for-hire license. 47 P.S. § 5-505. To apply for a bailee-for-hire license, please refer to [PLCB+](#).

**Can I collect money for my client while performing bartending services?**

You may collect payment from your client for the services you are providing. However, as explained above, you would not be allowed to provide alcohol to your client and collect money for that because such activity would be considered the unlawful sale of alcohol. Additionally, if you are providing the services of either transporting or storing alcohol provided by your client and collecting payment for such services, this would require you to obtain a transporter-for-hire license and/or a bailee-for-hire license respectively.

**Can I collect tips from the persons to whom I am serving alcohol at an event?**

Yes. You may collect tips from the persons to whom you are serving alcohol at an event, as long as the provision of tips is not made a condition of receiving alcohol. Otherwise, this could be construed as selling alcohol without a license.