

Diocese of Green Bay

Deacon Timothy G. Reilly
General Director of the Diocesan Curia



October 22, 2014

Dear Pastors, Parish Administrators, and Pastoral Leaders:

Peace in the Lord Jesus and Greetings!

During 2014, the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Presbyteral Council took up the matters pertaining to the sale or raffle of alcohol or firearms at a parish or school event. Having heard the input of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Presbyteral Council, Bishop Ricken has implemented the attached policy. This policy will take effect on October 1, 2015. The delayed start of this policy will allow for your event committees to continue with their current plans but begin to look at different models after October 1, 2015.

I believe the policy is clear as stated. However, if you have any questions, please feel free to call Tammy Basten, Chancellor, or myself.

May God abundantly bless you in your ministry!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deacon Tim Reilly".

Deacon Timothy G. Reilly
General Director of the Diocesan Curia

TGR/tlw
Attachments
c. Ms. Tammy Basten



We continue to want to ensure safe parish picnics and festivals. In recent years, we have recognized an increase in the auctioning and/or raffling of alcohol and firearms at school and church-sponsored fundraising events.

The Catholic Church views the consumption of alcoholic beverages from the perspective of the cardinal virtue of temperance. Our parishes and schools strive to model temperance. The promotion of alcohol through auction or raffles at fundraising events creates the appearance of promoting the consumption of alcohol. The auction or raffle of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. The inclusion of a bottle of wine, six bottles of beer, or a bottle of hard liquor in a gift basket of various other non-alcoholic items is acceptable.

If alcohol is being served on parish property, please follow the attached liquor liability guideline that is attached (beer tents, special gatherings, etc.).

Within the Diocese of Green Bay, there is a treasured history of game hunting. However, because of the risk of accidental or intentional bodily harm that can result from the use of a firearm, parishes and schools are prohibited from the auction or raffle of firearms. Hunting gear, excluding firearms, is acceptable. Gift certificates to sporting goods stores are also acceptable.

To provide enough time to plan for next year's festivities in order to address the aforementioned issues, effective next year, October 1, 2015, the Diocese of Green Bay will prohibit the auction or raffle of alcohol or firearms at school and church-sponsored fundraising events.

Policy Pertaining to the Sale or Raffle of Alcohol or Firearms – October 2014

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Catholic Mutual. . . “CARES”

LIABILITY CONTROL

LIQUOR LIABILITY

Overview

At any given parish throughout the country, the potential exists for renting the parish facilities for various functions, as well as utilizing those facilities for various festivals and events. Whether the facility is rented to an outside group or used for a parish function, in many instances, liquor may be served. With the introduction of liquor into the event, significant liability exposure exists. In order to minimize this risk, the following measures should serve as guidelines to be followed anytime liquor will be present for a parish function or when your facility is rented to outside groups.

Risk Reduction Measures

1. If liquor is to be served, it should be dispensed by a licensed bartender (or an individual who has had sufficient training in serving drinks and one who is proficient in the performance and accomplishment of this particular profession).
2. Liquor should never be served to an individual who is under the legal drinking age.
3. The individual who is dispensing drinks should only serve one drink at a time.
4. The drinks that are served should be carefully measured, and no doubles of any drink should ever be served. (The commonly accepted drink measurement should adhere to the following recommended standards: no more than 1½ ounces of whiskey in a highball, cocktail, or mixed drink; 12 ounces of beer as a maximum; and no more than 4-5 ounces of wine per serving.)
5. Food should be served constantly throughout the event that is taking place.
6. All individuals should be carefully observed throughout the event to make sure they are eating and not just drinking.

7. Every precaution should be taken to ensure that no alcoholic beverages be brought into the event, and that the only alcoholic beverages consumed are the ones being distributed under the guidance and control of the staff members of the event in question.
8. A pre-existing plan should be devised to handle an individual who has had too much to drink. This plan should include:
 - A. Alternative methods of transportation home after the event should the individual be in a diminished or incapacitated state and unable to drive their vehicle.
 - B. A method to limit or stop an individual's consumption should he or she had too much to drink in the opinion of the bartender handling the event. (This detection method can be handled through simple observation and if the individual exhibits slurred speech, staggering, stumbling behavior, or poor motor skill coordination).
9. At least 1½ hour before the event concludes, the bar should be shut down, and no further alcohol should be made available to the individuals present at the event.
10. In this final 1½ hour time period, coffee and food should be made available and those present encouraged to remain and partake in the offerings. While coffee and food will not help those individuals who have been drinking sober up, the **time** certainly will.

Remember: For every one drink you consume, regardless of the type of drink it may be (12 ounces of beer, 4-5 ounces of wine, or 1½ ounces of whiskey), it will take at least one hour for that drink to be eliminated from your system. Consideration should be given to posting signs similar to this at any event where alcohol is served.