

Have you been asked to participate at an event where alcoholic beverages are served?

Here are some questions you should be asking the event host:

- Is it at a licensed on-premises establishment?
- Is it a catered event?
- Is it a special permit event?
- Do they want you to donate beer?
- Do they want you to deliver beer to the event?
- Do they want you to stay and help serve?

Asking these questions and knowing about the event and how it is being held will determine how you are able to participate at certain events.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If the events are **NOT** at a licensed premises, a catered event, or a special permit event, there is **NO** way to lawfully participate.

Events AT a Licensed On-Premises Establishment

The licensed on-premises retailer must purchase the beer by following the proper distribution channels.

ALLOWED

✓ Delivering

Small breweries (producing less than 60,000 barrels) may deliver their beer directly to the licensed retail establishment as provided in [16-3-214](#), MCA.

✓ Serving

You and/or your employees may serve with the licensed on-premises retailer's permission.

You and your employees must be current with the Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service Act, provided in [16-4-1005](#), MCA prior to the commencement of the catered event.

NOT Allowed

✗ Selling Beer to Participants

You may not sell your beer to event attendees.

✗ Donating Beer

You must sell your beer to the licensee.

✗ Consignment Sales of Beer

You must invoice the licensee for the full amount of the sale of your beer. You may not have an "open invoice" or accept returns.

CATERED Events such as a Brewfest, a festival in the park, etc.

The events must be catered by a licensed on-premises retailer with a [catering endorsement](#) (Look for a catering endorsement posted. Licensees must post their catering endorsement at the event along with any other required signage).

The licensed on-premises retailer holding a valid [catering endorsement](#) must purchase the beer by following the proper distribution channels.

ALLOWED

✓ Delivering

Small breweries (producing less than 60,000 barrels) may deliver their beer directly to the licensed retail establishment (for them to take to the event) or to the catered event to the licensee with the catering endorsement as provided in [16-3-214](#), MCA.

✓ Serving

You and/or your employees may serve with the licensee's permission.

You and your employees must be current with the Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service Act, provided in [16-4-1005](#), MCA prior to the commencement of the catered event.

NOT Allowed

✗ Selling Beer to Participants

You may not sell your beer to event attendees.

✗ Donating Beer

You must sell your beer to the licensee.

✗ Consignment Sales of Beer

You must invoice the licensee for the full amount of the sale of your beer. You may not have an "open invoice" or accept returns.

SPECIAL PERMIT Events such as a brewfest, a festival in the park, etc.

The event must be conducted by a nonprofit organization with an approved special permit (Look for the special permit posted. Special permit holders must post their special permit at the event along with any other required signage).

The nonprofit organization approved with the special permit must purchase the beer by following the proper distribution channels.

ALLOWED

✓ Delivering

Small breweries (producing less than 60,000 barrels) may deliver their beer directly to special permit event area as provided in [16-3-214](#), MCA.

✓ Serving

You and/or your employees may serve with special permit holder's permission.

You and your employees must be current with the Responsible Alcohol Sales and Service Act, provided in [16-4-1005](#), MCA prior to the commencement of the event.

NOT Allowed

✗ Selling Beer to Participants

You may not sell your beer to event attendees.

✗ Donating Beer

You must sell your beer to the permit holder.

✗ Consignment Sales of Beer

You must invoice the permit holder for the full amount of the sale of your beer. You may not have an "open invoice".

Questions? Contact a [licensing specialist](#) for your county.

All licensees and permit holders must comply with all Federal and Montana alcoholic beverage laws and rules.

SECTIONS [16-3-101](#), [16-3-214](#), [16-4-204](#), [16-4-111](#), [16-4-301](#), [16-4-1005](#), MCA and ARM [42.12.128](#), [42.12.323](#), [42.13.601](#)

10.2023 Please note that the information in department communications may have been modified, superseded, or made obsolete by changes in federal or state law or the Administrative Rules of Montana. If you need to verify the current validity of any Department of Revenue communication, please contact us.

Scan QR code for more fact sheets

