

III. LIQUOR LIABILITY

A. INSTRUCTIONS

The following instructions from Catholic Mutual Group provide practical guidance regarding the use of alcohol on church premises. At any given entity, facilities are often used for various social events. Whenever liquor is served, there may be significant liability. In order to minimize the risk that the use of alcohol may bring, the following guidelines have been devised by the diocesan insurer.

B. 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 can never be served to an individual who is under the legal drinking age. (This age may differ from state to state, but in most instances, 21 is the legal drinking age, as it is in Utah.)

3. The individual who is dispensing drinks should serve only one drink per person at a time.

4. The drinks that are served should be carefully measured and no doubles served. (The commonly accepted drink measurements should adhere to the following recommended standards: no more than 1 ½ 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 during the event.

6. Every precaution should be taken to ensure that no alcoholic beverages are brought into the event and that alcoholic beverages consumed are the ones distributed under the guidance and control of the staff members of the event in question.

7. 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.

b) A method to limit or stop an individual's consumption should he or she have had too much to drink in the opinion of the bartender. (This can be handled through simple observation. If the individual exhibits slurred speech, aggressive behavior, staggering, stumbling or poor motor skill or coordination, no further alcohol should be given.)

8. At least 1 ½ hours before the event concludes, the bar should be closed and no further alcohol made available to the individuals present at the event.