

# Planning a SOCIAL EVENT

## The Responsibility is Yours

The “social” is a prairie tradition, an opportunity to gather together friends and family to celebrate and perhaps raise funds for a special cause.

While a great way to get people together, hosting a gathering where alcohol is being served under the authority of an occasional permit carries legal and social responsibilities.

Keep in mind, as the organizer, you are accountable for injuries or damages that occur as a result of alcohol provided at your event.

No one wants memories of a great party to be marred by tragedy. That’s why we’ve included the following hosting tips. Try them at your next social event.

After all, you want your friends to relax and have a good time ... and arrive home safely.

***It’s your party ... and you are responsible.***

## Conditions of a Permit

As a permit holder you should familiarize yourself with the duties and responsibilities of a permittee, which are listed on the reverse side of your permit application.

It’s your party and that means you decide who gets invited, what you serve to drink and eat, and what activities you plan. You are responsible.

## Know the Laws

- People under the age of 18 years are prohibited from drinking liquor at an occasional permit function - no exceptions!
- You must not sell or provide liquor to a minor.
- You must not sell or serve liquor to an intoxicated person.
- Selling or providing liquor to a minor or an intoxicated person is an offence under *The Liquor Control Act*, carrying with it a fine of approximately \$1,000 for a first offence.

Licensed hotels and restaurants are not the only ones being sued for over-service. **As an organizer of an event where liquor is served, you are responsible for your guests and may be held responsible for their safety and behaviour until they are sober (and not just until they leave your party or function).**



## Planning Ahead

**Designated Drivers** – Encourage your guests to designate a driver. It can be as simple as printing “Please plan to use a designated driver” on the back of your social ticket or arranging for rides or taxis. Having designated drivers in place may help with legal responsibilities and liability issues. The MLCC can provide you with DD “designated driver” materials.

**Bartenders** – Hire professionals who know the law. Avoid using friends, they may be reluctant to refuse service to an intoxicated guest.

**Security** – Hire security if needed. Confirm their responsibility in writing. Include checking ID at the door and “walk throughs”.

**Food** – Plan to have plenty of food available. It gives an alternative to drinking and helps slow down the speed with which alcohol is absorbed into the blood. Have attractive beverage alternatives available, such as non-alcoholic beer, wine, punch, juice, pop and mineral water.

## During the Social

- Don’t drink yourself. You are more capable of controlling potential problems if you are thinking clearly.
- Check the ID of anyone who appears to be under the age of 25. This will ensure that all young-looking people are of legal drinking age (18 or over). Only government-issued photo-identification is acceptable as proof of age. This includes a valid:
  - Manitoba Driver’s Licence (two parts)
  - MLCC photo-identification card
  - Armed Forces identification card
  - Canadian Citizenship card
  - Passport
  - Indian Affairs Status card
  - Photo driver’s licence issued by another province or state.
- Canadian Firearms licence

**Note:** *The photo on the card must clearly look like the person who has presented it for identification.*

- Have identifiable security (hats, arm bands, tee-shirts, etc.) circulate the room.
- Ensure that your bartender doesn’t serve more than two drinks to any one person at a time. This helps prevent a guest from giving drinks to a minor or intoxicated person. Adults purchasing for other adults is permitted.
- Don’t serve doubles.
- Promote use of designated drivers.
- Remind guests throughout the event not to drink if they will be driving.
- Plan to deal with guests who drink too much. Ask some guests to be prepared to help you if necessary before the event starts.
- Refund drink tickets at the end of the event.
- Don’t allow your guests to drive home drunk. Try to get them a ride with a sober person or send them home by cab.

***Friends don’t let friends drive drunk!***

## Common Alcohol Myths

**People get drunk from switching drinks.**

**False!** *It is the ethanol content of drinks that causes intoxication, regardless of the type of beverage.*

**Some people drive better after a few drinks.**

**False!** *Impairment of driving ability starts with the first drink. People may think they are driving better because their judgement is also affected.*

**A serving of regular beer is weaker than a highball.**

**False!** *Water-based mixes may dilute the alcohol, but the same amount of alcohol will eventually be absorbed into the bloodstream.*

**Fresh air and exercise will sober you up.**

**False!** *They do not change the rate at which alcohol is metabolized by the liver.*

**Coffee will sober you up.**

**False!** *The caffeine in coffee may make you more awake, but you’re no less impaired.*

**You can drink as much as you want as long as you eat a lot.**

**False!** *Food slows down the absorption of alcohol, but the alcohol will still be absorbed. Your body eliminates alcohol at a fixed rate.*

**A cold shower will sober you up.**

**False!** *A cold shower will make you a more alert intoxicated person for a few minutes, but no less intoxicated.*

For more information, please read our occasional permit pamphlet “What You Need to Know” or check out our web site:

**[www.liquormartsonline.com](http://www.liquormartsonline.com)**

If you require further assistance regarding your function, please call:

**Inspection Services @ 204-474-5585**

**Permits Department @ 204-474-5666**