

Parish Supplement

LOUISIANA PARISH AND MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES

- **SUNDAY SALES:** Unless otherwise stated in the information that follows, the sale of liquor on Sunday is permitted. The exceptions will be listed in the individual Parish/Municipality description in the details that follow. These laws vary by state (for more state by state information go to http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcohol_laws_of_the_United_States). These laws are often referred to as “Blue Laws” and are always being modified. They were designed to restrict or ban some or all Sunday shopping for religious standards, particularly the observance of a day of worship or rest. Alcohol servers should rely on the company management to advise them if there has been a change that may affect what can or cannot be done to remain in compliance.

- **ZONING:** Every Parish and Municipality has the authority to enact and enforce laws for the protection of the public’s health, safety, morals, and general welfare and thus regulate what may or may not be done in certain areas, including what a business may or may not do regarding retail sales, including liquor. This is not something that should be of concern to the individual server, but rather it is a responsibility of the business to be aware of and comply with the regulations. Advising servers as to what they may or may not do or serve will be handled by the management of the respective business and will be based on its location within the Parish or Municipality.

- **ORDINANCES REGARDING NOISE OR LOUD MUSIC:** While many of the regulatory guidelines are covered under zoning regulations, many areas have special guidelines regarding the playing of loud music or extraneous noise generated by various establishments. If playing loud music where alcohol is served seems commonplace, a French study in 2008 showed that loud music seems to throw people off their game and renders them less in control of their capacity to moderate their drinking. Be sure to follow the rules established by your company which should be aware of the specific regulatory guidelines for your business establishment.

- **SELLING ALCOHOL NEAR PLAYGROUNDS, SCHOOLS, SYNAGOGUES, PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND CHURCHES:** Nearly all areas have regulations regarding the issuance of permits to businesses selling alcohol within a specified distance from schools, playgrounds, synagogues, public libraries, churches and similar activities. As a server you may assume that the establishment by which you are employed is in compliance. This is something that would have been determined before a permit to operate a business was issued. Again, you will be advised by the management of a change in the ability of your establishment to serve or sell alcoholic beverages.

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- ❑ **LITTERING:** Ordinances prohibiting littering are present in all Parishes and Municipalities. Keeping the business area clean and orderly is not only a good business practice, but failure to do so may result in sanctions.
- ❑ **PARKING REGULATIONS:** In general, zoning regulations govern the number of vehicles that may park in a certain area. Usually, there is a requirement for a minimum number of parking spaces based on the size and type of business. A business must be careful to not permit over parking in an area designed for a certain number of vehicles. A server should rely on the management of the business for advice if a question should arise.
- ❑ **HOURS OF OPERATION:** In general, we are moving to more frequently allowing 24/7 operation of business. However, the sale of alcoholic beverages is one area where closure during certain hours, usually early mornings between midnight and 6 am, is commonplace. Again, your management team will be in control of this for a particular establishment.
- ❑ **OPEN CONTAINER LAWS:** While the regulations governing the consumption of alcoholic beverages in open containers while in a public area are becoming more liberal, many Parishes and Municipalities have strict regulations regarding this. The management team will advise servers regarding whether or not they may serve in containers that may be considered “open containers.”
- ❑ **PERMITS AND LICENSING:** As of 2000 the Louisiana Department of Alcohol and Tobacco Control regulates permits/licenses throughout the state and requires completion of a state approved program of study.