

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to go to hearing?

Most applications and changes need to go to hearing. If you have any questions, please call 617-796-1420.

When are the hearings?

Hearings are conducted monthly, typically on the third Tuesday of the month. They are subject to change. Please check our [licensing hearing schedule](#) for dates and deadlines.

Do I need to publish a legal ad?

It depends on the type of transaction. Please check the individual checklists which will say if a legal ad is required. If required, the licensing hearing schedule lists the legal ad deadlines.

Do I need to notify abutters?

It depends on the type of transaction. Please check the individual checklists which will say if an abutter's notice is required. If required, the licensing hearing schedule lists the legal deadlines. Please note, notice to the abutters must be within 3 days of the legal ad being published. Abutter notification must be made by certified mail and the green card must be submitted with application.

Entertainment licenses

Do I need a one-day temporary entertainment license to play music, show a movie or have a dance?

Yes, if your event has alcohol, is held at an establishment with a common victualler license or if you are charging admission. One day Licenses must go in front of the Board of license Commissioners for a decision. Applications must be submitted at least a month prior to your scheduled event.

I have a restaurant, do I need an annual entertainment license to play background music, have televisions or have live entertainment, etc?

Yes, you need an annual entertainment license. A Sunday license from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is needed if you have any type of entertainment on a Sunday. If you have any questions, please call 617-796-1420.

Alcohol Licenses

Do I need a one-day alcohol license to have alcohol beverages at an event?

Yes, if your event is not held on private residence. One-day temporary alcohol applications can be found [here](#). One day Licenses must go in front of the Board of license Commissioners for a decision. Applications must be submitted at least a month prior to your scheduled event.

What can kind of one-day temporary alcohol licenses can I apply for?

You can apply for wine and malt or all alcohol. All alcohol can only be requested if your organization has a non-profit status.

Where can I find a new or transfer alcohol applications for restaurants and package stores?

Alcohol applications are located on the [Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission's website](#). All of our checklists are located [here](#).