



This message is intended to provide information for persons desiring to hold events where consumption of alcohol will occur and to distinguish whether the events are considered private or public.

The State of Colorado and City of Wheat Ridge generally prohibits the public consumption of alcohol. This is pursuant to C.R.S. 12-47-901 (1) (h) and Chapter 16, Article VI., Sec. 16-127 of the Wheat Ridge Code of Ordinances.

The exemption for this prohibition is within a licensed premises of a business holding a liquor license issued by the State of Colorado and/or the City of Wheat Ridge. This includes Special Event Permits held by non-profit or charitable organizations, beer and wine, brewpubs, and hotel and restaurant license types.

Some examples of Private vs. Public consumption of alcohol are:

It is considered a public event if the general public may attend and if notification of the event being held is made through social, online or other media types.

It would be considered private if invitations were sent out to a select group and no one other than those invited are allowed to attend the event. If another person not on the invitation list is allowed to enter, then it becomes a public event. Think of this as having a private gathering at your home or place of employment after it closes regular business hours.

Some examples of unlawfully selling alcohol are:

Accepting anything of value in exchange for alcohol is considered a sale. Selling a hamburger and providing alcohol beverages (free beer) with that hamburger, is considered a sale. Soliciting or accepting a donation in exchange for alcohol is considered a sale.

A catering or bartending service that charges a corkage fee or associated fee with a volume of alcohol, a fee increase associated with the consumption of alcohol or a fee to deliver alcohol that is purchased by a private party are all considered a sale of alcohol.

C.R.S. 12-47-103 (34) including any of the following: “exchange, barter, trafficking, keep or expose for sale; to deliver for value or in any way other than gratuitously, peddle, possess with intent to sale...directly or indirectly.”

Example of not selling alcohol – private event:

A private party buys alcohol for a private event from a lawful source and provides it gratuitously to the event attendees. As long as those attendees do no exchange anything in value or are not charged, directly or indirectly, for the alcohol. Indirectly would be; the purchase of a cup to drink the alcohol, a cover charge or a “donation.”

{Ref. LED Bulletin 18-05} {Colo. Liquor Code Art. 47, Title 12, C.R.S.}