

## Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Event Permitting

The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is an agency of the government of the state of California charged with regulation of alcoholic beverages. ABC permits are required by the State of California to serve alcohol at events under certain conditions.

### When must I have an ABC event permit in place?

If alcohol is present/on site and **ANY** of the following applies to your event, **you need** an ABC special event permit:

- The event is open to the public, i.e., there is no private guest list, or anyone can walk in uninvited
- There is an admission cost for the event, i.e., ticket price, donation, or door charge
- Any other fundraising activities are being held at the event, i.e., silent auction
- Drinks are being sold at the bar, i.e., no-host or “cash” bar
- A licensed caterer is providing the alcoholic beverages
- The event venue requires an ABC permit to be in place for the event

### I hired a Caterer for my event to serve the alcohol, do I still need an ABC permit?

Yes, you still need an ABC permit for your event *unless you have hired an ABC licensed caterer.*

### How can I be sure that the caterer I hire is ABC licensed?

Ask your caterer to provide you a copy of their *58 Caterer’s Permit* **and ABC liquor license.**

### I am using a caterer who isn’t ABC licensed and/or I am supplying the alcohol for the event, what do I need?

If your event is a fundraiser and your organization is a registered and certified Non-Profit Organization (501-C3), then your organization may apply for a 1-day event permit (ABC 221) directly with the ABC.

<https://www.abc.ca.gov/abc-221-instructions/>

<https://www.abc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/forms/ABC-221.pdf>