



TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

Texans Helping Businesses & Protecting Communities

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LICENSING ADVISORY – LIC003

Caterer Certificates and Winery Festival Permits: File and Use vs. Prior Approval

This advisory provides guidance on what kind of TABC approval is required in order to obtain a Caterer Certificate and a Winery Festival Permit (see TABC's Administrative Rules §33.12 and 33.15).

Generally, in order to lawfully conduct your event under a Caterer Certificate or a Winery Festival Permit, you must submit your certificate or permit application to TABC at least 10 business days before the event. If the 10-day deadline is missed, you must pay an expedited processing fee ranging from \$300 to \$900 for TABC to consider your application (see TAC §33.23). Thereafter you must wait for TABC to issue the certificate or permit to you before you may conduct your desired activities.

However, there are three circumstances in which no prior approval by TABC is required. In these cases, all you need to do is file your application with TABC at any point prior to your event along with the regular fee for that certificate or permit application (no expedited processing fee necessary).

File and Use: Caterer Certificates for Funerals. Caterer Certificates for funeral-related events do not require prior approval by TABC. All you need to do is complete and file [Form L-CCFP](#) with TABC.

File and Use: Caterer Certificates for Private Events. Caterer Certificates for private events do not require approval and instead only require filing [Form L-CCFP](#) with TABC **if the event meets the following requirements** (Rule §33.12(d)):

- The estimated total wholesale value of the alcohol to be provided or sold at the event is less than \$10,000;
- The estimated attendance at the event is not more than 500 persons;
- The private event is not open to the general public and tickets are not sold;
- The event is not sponsored by a member of the manufacturing or wholesale tiers;
- The applicant has obtained permission to sell alcohol at the event from the owner of the premises where the event will be held; **AND**
- The event is not a multi-day event.

File and Use: Winery Festival Permits. Winery Festival Permits do not require approval and instead only require filing [Form L-GFF](#) with TABC **if the event meets the following requirements** (Rule §33.15(d)):

- The estimated total value of the alcohol to be provided or sold at the event by the permittee is less than \$10,000;
- The estimated attendance at the event is not more than 500 persons;
- The event is public;
- The event is not sponsored by a member of the wholesale tier; **AND**

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- The applicant has obtained permission to sell alcohol at the event from the owner of the premises where the event will be held.

TABC field staff will use the guidelines included in this document to determine if your application requires prior approval. If you conduct an event that does not meet the criteria as stated above and you do not obtain the proper prior approval from TABC, you are subject to administrative sanctions, including a civil penalty and/or cancellation of your primary permit.

If you have any questions, or need assistance, please contact your local TABC Licensing Office by email at licensing@tabc.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Joseph", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Jo Ann Joseph
Director of Licensing