



City of Atlanta Alcohol Technical Advisory Group (ATAG) II Information Sheet - February 23, 2012

This document provides basic information about the City of Atlanta's Alcohol Ordinance, and about the licensing of establishments that handle and sell alcohol within the limits of the City of Atlanta.

- Both State and City Licenses are required to manufacture, distribute or sell alcohol in Atlanta.
- The sale of alcohol in the State of Georgia is governed by Title 3-Alcoholic Beverages and can be found at <http://law.justia.com/codes/georgia/2010/title-3/>.
- The sale of alcohol in the City of Atlanta is governed by Chapter 10 of the Code of Ordinances-Alcoholic Beverages and can be found at <http://www.municode.com/Library/GA/Atlanta>.
- The Atlanta Alcoholic Beverages Ordinance (“Ordinance”) contains definitions and provides regulations for all manufacturers and distributors of alcohol, and for restaurants, bars, nightclubs, brewpubs, convention centers, lounges, private clubs, specialty food shops, package stores and wine specialty shops that sell alcohol.
- The Ordinance is administered and enforced by the Atlanta Police Department’s License & Permits Unit.
- Anyone applying for an alcohol license must:
 - Pass a 10-year search criminal background check that goes back 10 years;
 - Reside in one of the thirteen metro-Atlanta counties (Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dekalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding or Rockdale);
 - Be a citizen of the United States, or have been admitted for permanent residence;
 - Be 18 years of age or older.
- According to information provided by the Atlanta Police Department:
 - As of February 2012, there are between 1,925 and 2,000 active alcohol licenses throughout the City;
 - At a minimum, it can take between 40 and 45 days to obtain an alcohol license;
 - In the past five years, the City has revoked six alcohol licenses.
- According to information provided by the City of Atlanta, Office of Revenue, in 2011 the City collected approximately \$7,500,000.00 in alcohol license revenues.
- The alcohol license fee varies with the category of alcohol license applied for/issued. For example, a wholesaler/importer license fee is \$2000/year and a restaurant license is \$5000/year.

- Alcohol licenses are renewed annually, at the beginning of each calendar year.
- Licenses for new alcohol related businesses may be issued at any time during the calendar year and are valid for the remainder of the calendar year.
- Last year, according to information provided by the City Solicitor's Office, approximately 90 businesses were brought before the City Municipal Court on charges of operating without a liquor license.