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Matthew D. Saltzman Administrative Law Blog on Lawyers.com

[How to Apply for a Nevada Liquor License](#)

Wednesday, December 8, 2010 by [Matthew D. Saltzman](#)

Guidance from a Las Vegas liquor licensing lawyer

Nevada cities and counties are responsible for issuing retail liquor licenses, and the application process varies from one municipality to another. For the Las Vegas area, the application process is different for the cities of North Las Vegas, the City of Las Vegas, Boulder City, Henderson County, and Clark County. So depending on the exact location of the business, you will have to complete the application process outlined by those local elected boards and commissions.

A liquor license is a privilege

Because the retail sale of liquor is considered a privilege and not a property right in Nevada, each municipality may restrict the issuance of liquor licenses as it deems necessary. The variations in these restrictions can make the process of obtaining a liquor license in Las Vegas complicated. It is strongly advised that you secure experienced legal guidance to get through this process with a minimum of delays and difficulties.

The application process is intensive

Obtaining a retail liquor license in Las Vegas involves numerous steps. A Las Vegas liquor licensing lawyer will need the personal information used in the application, including your employment history, prior business relationships, evidence of financial stability, and criminal background.

It normally takes 90 to 120 days to secure a Las Vegas liquor license. But if you are unfamiliar with the process and you lack experienced guidance, the process can take much longer. Municipal governments are unforgiving of mistakes made along the way, and long delays can result from errors or misunderstandings in the application process. An attorney who is knowledgeable about this process can sit down with you, secure all the required information, and begin the application process for you.

Complete disclosure is vital

Background investigations of applicants for a liquor license are detailed. The completion of the application must be done carefully, with all required information provided in meticulous detail. Failure to disclose required information can lead to delays and further questions and can put the application in jeopardy.

Be well prepared and represented

As the application is under review, the applicant may be required to appear at a hearing to answer questions for the board conducting the application review. The goal of the hearing is to make a final determination as to whether the applicant has the character traits and integrity to operate the business in a way that will integrate smoothly with the surrounding community and to avoid issues or incidents that would be a detriment to local residents and business owners. A good attorney can provide preparation and guidance for the hearing.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the board will move to continue the investigation to clarify outstanding issues or to approve or deny the license application. If a license application is denied, the applicant has no legal recourse. Therefore, it is crucial that the application process go well the first time, with no errors or omissions that could derail the application. An experienced Las Vegas liquor license lawyer can help assure that the process does not fail due to errors or omissions on the part of the applicant.

We will represent you well

Kolesar & Leatham is one of the largest independent Las Vegas business law firms. We have years of experience in dealing with complex business transactions and litigation matters and special expertise in privilege licensing, including [Las Vegas liquor licensing](#). Call us at 702.997.8358 for help with completing your liquor license application process.

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