

Official Alcohol Policy of Berkeley Hillel

Adopted by the Berkeley Hillel Board of Directors, 1998

Preamble

The present document establishes the official policies of Hillel of Berkeley regarding the use of alcoholic beverages on Hillel premises or under the auspices of Hillel. This document is to be made available publicly, and is intended as a reference for Hillel's Board of Directors, professional staff, volunteers, and student and community leadership and student and community participants. Alcohol shall not be served at Hillel except under the circumstances described herein.

This document is created to satisfy Hillel's longstanding need for a clearly delineated alcohol policy: to promote Hillel's mission statement; to promote effective communication and planning among the people of Hillel and the community of which we are part; to protect Hillel's good name; and to protect Hillel financially.

This document was created by an ad hoc committee of Board members, and approved by the Board of Directors of Berkeley Hillel in 1998. The members of the ad hoc committee on alcohol were: Benjamin Diament, chairperson; Lauraine Jaeger; Norman Simon; Rona Shapiro, executive director, Adam Weisberg, interim executive director. Consulting for the committee were Bill Nevin, insurance broker; and Richard Hill, attorney.

The appropriate uses of alcohol at Hillel generally fall into three categories: religious, social, and private-event use. Alcohol for religious use is that which is consumed on religious holidays or at lifecycle celebrations that is sacramental or celebratory; this use of alcohol has always been sanctioned. The appropriate use of alcohol for social programs includes planned, regulated programs that serve to draw in students to quality programs that further the mission of Hillel. The use of alcohol at private events at Hillel is permitted on a limited controlled basis in accordance with the rules set forth below so that users are not unnecessarily inconvenienced by the absolute prohibition of alcohol. However, alcohol should never be the central focus or *raison d'être* for an event at Hillel.

Alcohol had been served at Hillel for many years before the establishment of the policy, and in the absence of any written policy on the matter. It has been our experience that when alcohol has been used at Hillel, it has been for a variety of reasonable purposes, and it has been handled in a responsible manner by students and staff. The Board wishes to continue to cultivate a relationship of mutual trust with students and staff at Hillel, and does not seek arbitrarily to restrict individual and communal choice regarding the use of alcohol at Hillel. The Board, therefore, does not believe it is necessary to prohibit the use of alcohol at Hillel, but establishes this document in order to secure important legal and financial safeguards against hazards and potential abuses, and to make its policies and expectations in this regard clear and understandable to the community of Hillel.

Implementation and Review

The executive director will hold primary responsibility for implementation of this policy. The director will conduct or oversee a yearly review of this policy to assess compliance and efficacy, to be presented to the Board in May or June.

Policy

All use of alcohol at Hillel must be in compliance with the laws of California, Alameda County, and the City of Berkeley. Berkeley Hillel, The Foundation for Berkeley Hillel, Inc., and The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life must be insured by a suitable insurance company for liability in connection with all alcohol use at Hillel.

Insurance

The term *alcohol liability insurance*, as used in the policy statement, refers to liquor law liability insurance, and must name the following as insured parties:

- Berkeley Hillel
- Foundation for Berkeley Hillel, Inc.
- Foundation for Jewish Campus Life

At all times there must be a minimum of \$1,000,000.00 of alcohol liability insurance coverage with a deductible of no more than \$10,000.00. The insurance must cover any liability resulting from illegal service of liquor and other instances of failure by Hillel staff and members to adhere to the policy.

Licensing

For every event at Hillel at which alcohol is served, whether the event is Hillel-sponsored or private, it must be determined whether a license is needed. The following are guidelines to determine whether a license is needed. Questionable cases should be referred to a knowledgeable attorney or the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

If any consideration is exchanged for the alcohol or for admission to an event at which alcohol is served, or if donations are solicited at the event, a license is needed for the sale of alcohol. Consideration includes money, tickets, tokens, or anything of value. Also, if the event is open to the public, even if alcohol is not sold, a license needs to be obtained. If the event is only for members and invited guests, and is not publicly advertised as an event at which alcohol is served, and no alcohol is sold, then a license is not needed.

A special daily license must be obtained from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for any event that requires a license. A copy of the procedure for obtaining a license from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control shall be made available at Hillel.

Religious and Sacramental Use

The use of alcohol at religious events sponsored by Hillel according to traditional Jewish law and custom is permitted. This includes serving wine on Shabbat and Jewish holidays and serving alcohol in celebration for Simchat Torah and Purim. Charging admission for Shabbat and holiday dinner is permitted. If alcohol is served on Simchat Torah or Purim, no admission fee may be charged. There may be no separate charge for alcohol served at religious events. Publicity and advertising for religious events at which alcohol will be served may make no direct reference to alcohol. Formal age verification is not required at religious events.

Private Events at Hillel

Parties (henceforth “users”) using Hillel for private events may serve alcohol only if the event is not open to the public. Except for charitable fundraising events, where proceeds go to a recognized non-profit organizations, the user may not charge admission if alcohol is served, nor may the user charge for alcohol itself. If the user wishes to charge for alcohol or admission to an approved non-profit fundraiser, the user must obtain a license. All users serving alcohol must provide proof of insurance, as described below, must agree to comply with state, county and city law, and must provide a guarantee to pay for any property damage that may occur. Except with the express permission of the executive director, this guarantee must include a refundable security deposit of \$500. Except with the permission of the executive director, the security deposit must be advanced before day of the event.

Users must sign a contract that clearly indicates whether alcohol will be served at the private event, and, if alcohol is to be served, the contract must further indicate whether alcohol will be sold or whether an admission fee will be charged or contributions solicited. All private events at Hillel must have a Hillel representative present. The Hillel representative must have a copy of the rental agreement and be specifically informed of the area of the building to be used and the hours of the event and whether alcohol may be sold or served at the event. The representative must close any event not in compliance with this alcohol policy or the signed contract.

Users serving alcohol, even for sacramental use, must provide proof of liquor law liability insurance of a minimum of \$500,000.00, and a deductible of not more than \$1,000.00. A Hillel staff member shall contact the insurance company to verify that the user is insured for liquor law liability and property damage at an event at Hillel. The following parties should be named as additional insured on this insurance:

- Berkeley Hillel
- Foundation for Berkeley Hillel, Inc.
- Foundation for Jewish Campus Life

Hillel Fundraising Events

Fundraising events at Hillel sponsored by the Board of Directors are subject to the same restrictions as private events, except that no security deposit is required.

Hillel-Sponsored Social Events

Alcohol may be served at up to six Hillel-sponsored social events at Hillel per year, to be determined jointly by Hillel staff and the student committee. The serving of alcohol may not be the focus of such events. These events must have the prior written approval of the executive director, who should ensure that the event furthers the mission of Hillel without jeopardizing Hillel's reputation. At such events, if any consideration is given for the alcohol itself, for admission at the door, for contributions, fundraising, or any other purpose, alcohol is being "sold." If no money is to change hands at the event, alcohol is being "served." If alcohol is sold or the event is open to the public, a license must be obtained. Further more, at any Hillel-sponsored social event, it must be ensured that the distribution of alcohol is regulated and not self-served, and that only people of legal drinking age are serve alcohol. Except with the express permission of the executive director, a professional bartender is to serve the alcohol in order to ensure regulated service. The executive director may approve the serving or sale of alcohol at social events only when proper arrangements are made to ensure compliance with these rules. Such arrangements may be handled by any Hillel staff member or student.

Restrictions

Except under circumstances permitted as described above, alcohol is not to be served at Hillel.