

BARTENDING SERVICE COMPARISON CHECKLIST

Introduction for Clients & Event Venues

Serving alcohol at an event involves more than drink selection and presentation – it carries real legal, insurance, and liability considerations for both hosts and venues. Not all bartending services operate under the same standards, and important differences exist in how businesses are licensed, insured, staffed, and structured.

This checklist was created to provide a **clear, objective framework** for evaluating bartending services. It is designed to help clients and venues understand what to verify before approving or selecting a provider, particularly in areas that directly affect risk exposure and compliance.

The checklist on the following page outlines key considerations including:

- Legal business registration and licensing
- Required insurance coverage and documentation
- Staffing and employment practices
- Alcohol service structure and compliance
- Operational readiness, equipment, and sanitation standards

Each item is intended to be verifiable, using public records or standard documentation such as certificates of insurance, vendor licenses, and payroll coverage.

This document is not a substitute for legal advice, but rather a practical comparison tool to support informed decision-making, transparent vendor evaluation, and responsible event planning.

How to use this checklist:

Review each category carefully and confirm that any bartending service being considered can clearly meet and document these standards. Doing so helps reduce risk, avoid last-minute issues, and protect all parties involved when alcohol is served.

Cheers!

PREMIERPOUR
- BARTENDING -

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BARTENDING SERVICE COMPARISON CHECKLIST

Planning an event involves more than great cocktails—there are real legal, insurance, and liability considerations when alcohol is being served. This comparison checklist is designed to help clients and venues clearly understand what separates a properly licensed, insured, and professionally staffed bartending service from one that may expose hosts and venues to unnecessary risk.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE, LICENSING, + INSURANCE



Business Registration with Secretary of State¹ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirms the business is legally registered with the State of Ohio and authorized to operate as a business entity. Verifiable on Ohio Secretary of State Business Lookup Tool 	✓		
State of Ohio Worker's Compensation Insurance Coverage² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legally required for any company with staff/employees; protects the venue and host from injury-related claims. Proof staff/employees are on payroll and covered by all insurance policies. Verifiable on Ohio BWC/MCO Lookup Tool 	✓		
Transient/County Vendor's License for Sales Tax Collection + Remittance³ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legally required for any business providing rental + tangible items, portable bars, cups, straws, napkins, beverages for on-premise consumption, etc. Verifiable on Ohio Department of Taxation List of Active Vendors 	✓		
General + Liquor Liability Insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1MM/\$2MM Commercial General & Liquor Liability Insurance Policy COI (Certificate of Insurance) readily available for clients + venues. 	✓		
Commercial Comprehensive Automotive Liability Insurance⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Company owned vehicles, trailers, etc. 	✓		
Hired + Non-Owned Automotive Insurance⁶ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee vehicles used for business purposes. 	✓		
Dry Hire Operating Model⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Client purchases and provides alcohol; bartending service provides staffing, equipment, and non-alcoholic items in compliance with liquor laws. 	✓		

STAFF + MANAGEMENT



Staffing W2 Employees⁵ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered by All Company Insurance + Compliant w/ Federal, State, and Local Requirements Including Payroll Taxes, Workers Compensation, etc. 	✓		
⚠ Staffing 1099 Contractors⁵ ⚠ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not Employees + Not Covered by Company Insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk Exposure Shifts to Host + Venue 	N/A		
Professional Uniformed Staff	✓		
Multiple Backup Bartenders Available for Each Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25+ Bartenders on Staff 	✓		
ServSafe Alcohol Certified Bartenders w/ Ongoing Certification Updates	✓		

CLIENT EXPERIENCE



Full-Time, Established Business (Not a Side Hustle)	✓		
Clear, Itemized, + Transparent Pricing Structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customizable bar packages for all types of events. 	✓		
Dedicated Online Client Portal with Password Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital access to documents, forms, questionnaires, invoices, etc. 	✓		
Pre-Event Consultation and Walkthrough Services	✓		
Post-Event Follow-up and Satisfaction Guarantee	✓		
Verified Reviews across Multiple Platforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Google, Facebook, The Knot, Wedding Wire, etc. 	✓		
Proudly Serving our Community Since 2010 with 800+ Executed Events!	✓		

SERVICE OFFERINGS



Event Essentials (Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Garnishes, Disposables, etc.)	✓		
Bulk Ice Services (Including Bagged Ice + Ice Sculptures)	✓		
Signature + Craft Cocktail Menu Design + Development	✓		
Non-Alcoholic Mocktail Programs	✓		
Alcohol Ordering + Delivery Logistics Coordination⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Client-purchased alcohol at State Minimum pricing. 	✓		
Bar Layout Consultation, Custom Design, + Branding Services	✓		
Cash + Ticketed Bar Services⁴ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only available for qualified events with a Temporary Liquor License due to State Law. Weddings <u>do not</u> qualify. Ohio Department of Liquor Control 	✓		

FACILITIES + EQUIPMENT



Dedicated Climate-Controlled Warehouse + Office Space	✓		
Professional + Commercial Grade Bar Equipment, Tools, Coolers, etc.	✓		
Customizable Portable Bars with Modern Design Options	✓		
Three-Compartment Sink Meeting Health Code Requirements	✓		
Comprehensive Backup Equipment Inventory	✓		
Regular Equipment Maintenance + Sanitation	✓		

Ohio Statutory References (Summary)

*For general compliance awareness; not legal advice

¹ Business Registration — ORC §§ 1701, 1705, 1706

² Workers' Compensation (Employees) — ORC §§ 4123.01, 4123.35

³ Vendor's License & Sales Tax — ORC §§ 5739.02, 5739.17

⁴ Liquor Control & Alcohol Service — ORC §§ 4301, 5439.18

⁵ Employment Classification (W-2 vs. 1099) — ORC § 4123.01

⁶ Auto Liability / Financial Responsibility — ORC §§ 4509

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