

Special Designated License (SDL)

A Special Designated License can only be obtained by retail liquor license holder or a non-profit organization that is exempt from the payment of federal income taxes per Nebraska Revised Statute 53-124.11(1).

The NLCC will always recommend getting an SDL for most circumstances to avoid any potential problems. Failure to follow Nebraska liquor laws including selling without a license, underage drinking and over consumption can result in criminal charges and/or administrative citation to event hosts and attendees.

The application for SDL must be received via the POSSE customer portal at least 7 days prior to the date of the event. This does not include weekends, holidays, or the date of the event. There are NO REFUNDS for late, cancelled or rejected applications. Please make sure to verify the due date on the calendar posted to our website. Late applications will not be accepted. [2025 SDL 7 Day Calendar.pdf](#)

- **Is alcohol being served to the public?**
 - Alcohol is being served to the public - you MUST have an SDL.
 - Open houses/Grand openings
 - Publicly advertised events
 - Events in public or in an area accessible by the public
- **Is the alcohol being sold?**
 - If the alcohol is being sold – you MUST have an SDL.
 - Paying for the drink
 - Paying for a ticket or entry fee to get into the event
 - Auctions where alcohol is in the gift basket/prize
 - Donations made to the non-profit organization holding the event
- **Has the event been advertised?**
 - Any advertising on social media, in the newspaper, on TV or posted locally you MUST have an SDL.
- **Is the location of the event permanently licensed?**
 - If you are not the holder of license for that location, you MUST have an SDL.
 - Whoever is receiving the funds from the sale of the alcohol MUST have an SDL.

- **Is the event BYOB?**
 - Anyplace that is open to the public or accessible to the public, you **MUST** have an SDL.

- **Is the event “private”?**
 - Private events are by invitation only with a strict guest list.
 - Nobody not on the list is allowed entry into the event
 - Weddings with a plus 1 are not private events.
 - Absolutely no money exchanged for alcohol or entry into the event.
 - No advertising for the event
 - No social media postings of the event
 - 53-186.01 does not specify what open to the public means, so NLCC takes a commonsense approach:
 - If there is a guest list prepared in advance and no persons not on the list is allowed entry
 - If there is no advertising of the event
 - If there are no social media postings of the event
 - Then NLCC deems it a private event and would agree no liquor license is required. However, if the list is ignored and public access is granted to the event and there is uncontrolled access to the alcohol then it would not be considered a private event.

- **What are the fencing requirements?**
 - For outdoor events the area where alcohol will be allowed must be enclosed by fencing or natural barriers
 - Snow fencing, cattle panels, chain link, and natural barriers such as tree lines, body of water, railroad tracks and buildings are acceptable
 - Rope fencing is **NOT** acceptable

Non-Profit Organizations

- **Who is receiving the funds from the sale of the alcohol?**
 - If you are receiving funds from the sale of alcohol you **MUST** have an SDL
 - That organization then takes responsibility for serving and selling the alcohol as well as monitoring for over consumption and underage drinking.
- **Is the alcohol being donated?**
 - Alcohol can only be donated by a Nebraska licensed wholesaler or manufacturer to a nonprofit organization.
 - You will need to request an exemption to receive donated product
 - Monetary donations may be accepted to purchase product in lieu of accepting donated product
- **Auctions**
 - If alcohol is included in the winnings of an auction that is considered selling alcohol, and you **MUST** have an SDL.

Home Brewers FAQ

- Home brewed alcohol cannot be sold in any capacity
- You cannot charge entry or sell tickets to events serving home brewed alcohol
- There cannot be donations at an event serving home brewed alcohol
- The Home Brew must be clearly labeled that it was not produced using a licensed commercial facility and is considered “home brew”.
- The location of the manufacturer must be available upon request.

Other Information

- There can be multiple SDLs for the same event for different licensees. Liability will be shared between everyone who has an SDL
- If alcohol is being purchased from a non-wholesaler, you will need to request an exemption to acquire from other than a wholesaler
 - Sam’s Club and Costco are not alcohol wholesalers
- Left over alcohol purchased from a wholesaler may be returned to the wholesaler with 7 days of the event