

ServSafe Alcohol Program Roll-Out Guidelines:



Florida

Florida does not require responsible alcohol service training but offers mitigation benefits to operators who voluntarily participate in the state's "Responsible Vendor Program."

A Florida alcohol beverage licensee that is a Qualified Responsible Vendor receives the following benefits:

- The establishment's alcohol beverage license may avoid suspension or revocation if statutory prescribed training and additional requirements are met, conferring status as a Qualified Responsible Vendor at the time of a violation.
- Using its discretion, the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco will take into account the operator's qualification as a responsible vendor when considering administrative penalties for a violation. The Division also considers the operator's record of previous arrests or violations in determining the severity of a penalty or action. Qualified Responsible Vendors also receive benefits in civil proceedings.

The statutory elements of qualification as a Responsible Vendor include:

- Provide an alcohol server manager course for managers of their establishments that covers subjects dealing with alcoholic beverages and may include subjects dealing with controlled substances.
- Each non-managerial employee must complete the alcohol server training course within 30 days from the date of hire (vendors must provide supervision of these employees while serving alcoholic beverages until the employee completes their training).
- Require managers to complete the alcohol server manager course within 15 days from the date of hire.
- Every 4 months, all employees must attend an informational meeting covering the vendor's policies and topics relating to the service and consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- Require each employee, as a condition of employment, to complete a questionnaire (similar to the one the vendor has to complete for the division prior to being licensed) in order to determine if the employee is prohibited by law from serving or selling alcoholic beverages.
- Establish a written policy that states any employee who illegally uses controlled substances on the licensed premises will immediately be dismissed. Each employee must acknowledge this policy in writing.
- Maintain all applications, acknowledgements, training records and documentation of the vendor's enforcement of the policies requiring dismissal.
- Post signs on the premises informing customers of the vendor's policy against serving minors and against the use of or trafficking in of controlled substances. The signs must warn about the consequences.

Reviewed APRIL 2026

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Contact the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association at 866-372-7233 for more information on becoming a Qualified Responsible Vendor.

STATE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE AUTHORITY:

State of Florida

Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco

1940 North Monroe Street

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1020

Phone: 850-488-3223

Fax: 850-922-5175

Email: ABT@myfloridalicense.com

Website: <http://www.myfloridalicense.com/DBPR/alcoholic-beverages-and-tobacco/>

STATE LAWS & RULES:

Florida's state alcohol laws can be viewed on the Web at:

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Index&Title_Request=XXIV#TitleXXXIV

The administrative code for Florida's Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco on the sale and service of alcoholic beverages can be found at:

1. <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=61A-1.010>
2. <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=61a-2>
3. <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=61a-3>
4. <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=61a-5>

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