



February 21, 2011

**Special Occasion Licence (SOL) holders are now subject to the same enforcement penalties as permanent licensees**

A recent change to the Liquor Control and Licensing Act has come into force that means special occasion licence holders are subject to the same enforcement penalties for liquor infractions as permanent licensees. SOL licence holders are liable for any contraventions which occur while the licence is in effect, and this liability will continue for up to six months after the event has ended.

When you host an event under a special occasion licence, you cannot:

- sell or serve liquor to minors
- allow someone who is intoxicated to enter or remain at your event
- serve a guest to the point of intoxication
- permit unlawful activity
- sell illicit liquor (product that has been acquired other than through an approved LDB outlet such as a government liquor store) and
- allow someone who has a weapon to enter or remain at your event (if you suspect someone has a weapon, notify the police immediately).

In addition, you must ensure:

- your event does not disturb nearby residents and businesses, and
- liquor inspectors and police are given immediate access to your event, and to any documents related to your SOL licence.

For a complete list of contraventions and penalties please see [Schedule 4](#) of the Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation.

A liquor inspector may attend your event. If he or she believes that you or your staff/volunteers are contravening provincial liquor laws, the inspector will issue a Contravention Notice. Depending on the circumstances, the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch may also recommend a monetary penalty against the organization hosting the event. For more information on the compliance and enforcement process please refer to the [Compliance and Enforcement](#) section of our website.

**For more information:**

Cindy Stephenson  
250 387-1254  
[cindy.stephenson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:cindy.stephenson@gov.bc.ca)