Montgomery County Alcohol Beverage Services
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Licensure, Regulation and Education

Wine Corkage Requirements

General Provisions

1. The Board of License Commissioners may authorize a restaurant, club or hotel that holds a beer and wine, or a beer, wine and liquor, Class B, Class C, or Class H alcohol beverage license to allow a person to bring personal wine onto the licensed premises for consumption under certain conditions. See § 4-1102 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.
2. License holders can apply by completing the application and submitting it to the Board of License Commissioners. Once approved, a new license will be issued.
3. There is no additional charge to the business for this permit.

Wine Corkage Procedures

1. The license holder must authorize the individual to take the personal wine onto the licensed premises.
2. Patrons who consume personal wine must be at least 21 years old.
3. Patrons who consume personal wine must order a meal.
4. Personal wine must not be available through the license holder's wine list.
5. The hours that wine corkage may occur are the same hours specified by the alcohol beverage license.
6. The license holder may charge a corkage fee, subject to the State Sales Tax.
7. The license holder must dispose of any wine that remains after the meal, or the unused wine may be removed by the individual from the licensed premises if the bottle is re-corked or capped. Maryland law prohibits open containers in what is considered to be "passenger areas" of automobiles. Remind your customers that the unfinished bottle of wine is still considered an "open container," so it should be transported in the trunk, cargo area, locked glove compartment or area behind the rear-most seat of an automobile.