

Nightlife Best Practices

Know your Noise Ordinances

Commercial music-Sound levels associated with commercial music cannot be more than six decibels above background noise levels as measured within a dwelling. In addition, commercial music cannot be plainly audible from a distance of 100 feet or more from the property line of business

Residents wishing to report a noise issue can call Tacoma CARES at (253) 591-5001; emergency situations should be reported to 911. Civil complaints will be investigated by Building and Land Use Services and criminal investigations will be performed by the Tacoma Police Department.

For complete definitions and rules on Noise control, see Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter (TMC) 8.122.

Know your Liquor Laws

You will need a liquor license to operate; liquor licenses are issued by the Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB) for more information contact the WSLCB at 360-664-1600 or visit their website at www.liq.wa.gov. Types of conducts prohibited on a liquor-licensed premise can be found at WAC 314-11-050.

Know your Smoking Laws

Washington State law (RCW 70.160) prohibits smoking in all workplaces including bars and restaurants. Smoking is not allowed inside public spaces, places of employment or outside within 25 feet of doors and windows. Businesses who allow smoking may be fined and face legal action. No smoking signs must be clearly posted at all establishments.

For more information on this law, contact the Tacoma Pierce-County Health Department Miae Aramori for a resource kit at (253) 798-3765 or maramori@tpchd.org. For questions concerning compliance, you may contact Renée Avelino at (253) 798-2831 or ravelino@tpchd.org.

Employees

Use your best judgment when hiring employees, perform background and reference checks. At a minimum, you can obtain a simple criminal conviction background check via the Washington State Patrol for a \$10 fee. Request online at www.watch.wsp.wa.gov or contact the State Patrol at 360-534-2000.

Event Promoters

Make sure any event promoters hold a valid City of Tacoma Business license. To verify call Tax & License at 253-591-5252. Be sure to check promoter's references. You may place your business at risk by turning it over to an unlicensed, inexperienced or unscrupulous promoter. Be sure to require a written, fully executed contract with your event promoter. Liability stays with you and your establishment including occupancy limits, contraband, weapons behavior, levels of intoxications, admission tax, finances and over limits.