

## Admissions Tax Fact Sheet

*Overview:* The City of Cincinnati levies a 3% tax on all admissions. Any person or organization that intends to charge admissions in the City of Cincinnati must be approved for an admissions tax license or an admissions tax license exemption prior to the sale or resale of any admissions in the City of Cincinnati. Anyone who holds an admissions tax license must also file monthly tax returns for the duration of the license term. This admissions tax is considered a “trust tax” in that they are collected by another party and held in trust on behalf of the City of Cincinnati until remitted. At no time are admissions taxes collected by these persons considered to belong to those who have collected them from their patrons on behalf of the City.

*See Admissions Tax Rules & Regulations for details and examples. Available online at:  
<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/finance/admissions-taxes/>*

<b>What is an admission?</b>	A charge paid for the right or privilege to enter into a temporary or permanent place or event or participate in any tour or itinerant form of amusement within the City of Cincinnati. Some examples include: theaters, stadiums, concerts, plays, cabarets, lectures, shows, athletic or sporting events, movie theaters, amusement parks, festivals, swimming pools, country clubs, or other clubs offering recreational activities; and private and public golf courses.
<b>What is the Admissions tax rate?</b>	The City of Cincinnati levies a 3% tax on all admissions.
<b>Who pays, collects, and remits the Admissions Tax?</b>	<p>The customer who purchases the admission pays the Admissions Tax to the seller, reseller, or marketplace facilitator.</p> <p>The seller, reseller, or marketplace facilitator collects the tax paid by the customer and remits it to the City monthly.</p>
<b>What is the difference between a seller, reseller, and marketplace facilitator?</b>	<p>A Seller is a person/organization who sells an admission that has not been purchased previously (e.g. a movie theater or sports team selling a ticket)</p> <p>A Reseller is a person/organization who sells an admission that has been purchased previously</p> <p>A Marketplace Facilitator is a person/organization who controls a physical or electronic marketplace or other service (such as a brokerage service) that in exchange for a fee or compensation facilitates the purchase of admission from a seller or reseller (e.g. currently websites/apps like SeatGeek, Stubhub, etc.)</p>

**For additional information or to apply, please visit the City’s website at  
<https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/finance/admissions-taxes/>**

<p><b>I only sell tickets on sidewalks or other designated areas outside an event</b></p>	<p>Yes. Sales that are only conducted on sidewalks or other designated areas outside an event are designated as Street Ticket Sales (CMC Sec. 840). Any person engaging in Street Ticket Sales must obtain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Ticket Seller license</li> <li>2. An Admission Tax license, which also requires submission of monthly Admissions tax returns.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Is a license required to collect Admissions tax?</b></p>	<p>Yes. A license is required to collect Admissions taxes and remit them to the City. An Admissions tax license can be issued as a Temporary license or as an Annual license. The cost is \$50.00. Follow the link at the bottom of this fact sheet for more information and to apply.</p>
<p><b>I am <u>not</u> a scalper or ticket agency, but occasionally try to resell tickets or other admissions online, do I need a license?</b></p>	<p>Maybe.</p> <p><u>You DO NOT need a license</u> If you utilize the services of a licensed Marketplace Facilitator (MF); e.g. currently websites/apps like SeatGeek, Stubhub, etc.). If the MF is licensed, the tax will be collected and remitted to the City and you have no further, obligation.</p> <p><u>You DO need a license</u> if you resell the Admission/ticket directly to another person or utilize a service that is not licensed by the City.</p>
<p><b>If I resell an admission, do I owe tax of the full amount or just the amount that is higher than the original selling price?</b></p>	<p>Both the original selling price and any incremental increase in the price of admission (including any fees, broker fees etc.) is subject to the tax. However, Admissions tax should have already been collected and remitted on the original selling price, so a Reseller only owes tax on any incremental increase in the price.</p>
<p><b>When are Admissions taxes remitted to the City?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monthly: Tax collected in any month must be reported to the City with supporting documentation and remitted to the City on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of the following month.</li> <li>• Annual: Annual returns are due on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Any discrepancies from the prior year must be supported with documentation.</li> </ul> <p>If the payment is delinquent: Persons that do not remit Admissions taxes on time, must pay late interest of 1% per month.</p>
<p><b>Does the City allow for any exemptions from Admissions taxes?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exempt by Right: Government entities, including public education organizations; private primary education organizations.</li> <li>• Exemption Application Required for certain organizations such as 501(c)(3) organizations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Must be approved prior to any sale of admissions; any admissions sold prior to approved exemption must collect &amp; remit Admissions tax.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>No benefits of the admissions can inure to any entity other than the exempt organization.</p>

<b>What is the penalty for not collecting and remitting Admissions taxes?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Persons that have not obtained an Admissions tax license, do not collect and remit Admissions taxes to the City, or violate any other section of CMC Sec. 309, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, and shall be fined not more than \$500, or imprisoned not more than 60 days, or both.</li></ul>
<b>If I rent a space to a person/organization for an event that owes Admissions taxes, could I be liable for the taxes?</b>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>If Admissions are sold without a license and/or Admissions taxes are not collected and remitted, the City can place a lien on both:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The property of the person/organization who should have obtained the license and/or collected and remitted the Admissions taxes</li><li>• The real property where the event was held.</li></ul> <p>While the person/organization who is selling Admissions usually controls the venue, this is not always the case.</p>

\*\*\*Descriptions above are provided as examples and may not reflect the specific requirements in each instance. Please consult the program rules and regulations for additional details.\*\*\*