



Tid-bits

Licenses comes in all shapes and sizes. Permits do too. But they are not the same. Although we use the words interchangeably the definitions are very different.

The differences between permit and license are: permits are the official or legal document issued to administer rules and regulations regarding public safety issues; licenses grant authorization to do or use something.

In other words:

License: Grants permission to do a specific activity (profession) or use a unique item and is narrow in focus and geared more toward performance that could have the potential to harm the public.

Permit: Authorizes you to do something within public health and safety guidelines, requires regular inspections and covers a broad range as it is related to that specific activity.

And all of this is pretty straight forward until you get into Texas liquor licenses, or is that permits? or both? [I feel your pain].

That's all there is, right? Nope.

Let's toss in the third element: Registrations

Registrations: Granted by a governing body or licensing board or commission, that requires "registration" in the common definition, but may also involve hazardous or specialized skill, testing and training and treated as a conditional matter as a license or permit would.

Registrations are becoming more frequent with local and state governments realizing they can implement requirements and codify restrictions without having to address statutory change or amend ordinances related to permits and licenses. This is often overlooked and ignorance is not bliss.

Now, some fun facts. What are some of the oddest licenses out there?

Radio station license for a golf course (for the sprinkler system)

Egg license to sell and ship eggs (not sure why)

Gaming license for children's games (think Chuck E Cheese not Las Vegas)

Florist (Who knew you had to take an exam?)

Interior Design (So where to move that sofa?)

Packager (Yep, you need to know how to hold those scissors)

Would love to know what else is out there! Email info@permitpros.com and I'll add to the list for next time.