

### Keeping your premises licensed

A new licensing system was introduced in England and Wales in November 2005. The new rules make the system the same nationwide. Licensing decisions can now be made according to local concerns; with this new flexibility, individual licence holders are able to choose – within reason – the hours in which licensable activities are provided.

Under the new system, you need a 'Premises Licence' if you intend to carry out any of the following activities on your property:

- Sale of alcohol
- Provision of entertainment or entertainment facilities
- Provision of late night refreshment (i.e. sale of hot food and hot drink between 11pm and 5am)

If alcohol is to be sold from your premises, you, or someone who works for you, will need to be a Personal Licence holder. This person is responsible for, and authorises, the sale of alcohol and is named on the Premises Licence as the Designated Premises Supervisor.

You may, on the other hand, be acquiring property which already has a Premises Licence. If this is the case, you will need to transfer the Premises Licence to you or your company and change the named Designated Premises Supervisor.

Whether you are acquiring a new property or hold a Premises Licence, you may wish to vary the terms of the Licence to increase the activities provided or the hours in which they are carried out.

You should be aware that slightly different rules apply where there is the supply of alcohol and the provision of entertainment to members and guests of clubs.

### How we can help

Our dedicated licensing team can assist you with all licensing queries and applications you may have, including:

- Applications for new Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates
- Applications for and renewals of Personal Licences
- Any variations to the terms of an existing Licence
- All applications to be made on acquiring of licensed property

Please feel free to contact Kay Waddington in our Licensing team on **01942 777777** to discuss your needs further.

## About Stephenson

Stephensons provides legal advice for all aspects of your personal or business life. By understanding your circumstances and keeping the red-tape to ourselves, we focus on efficiently delivering what you need, when you need it. Operating from a number of regional locations, we rank among the top 100 UK law firms and are one of the fastest growing practices in the north west. With over 300 staff, you can trust our specialists to take care of things on your behalf, always putting your best interests first. So, for legal advice and action the way you want it, just turn to Stephenson.