



Street Performer License

Facts about the City of Chicago Street Performer License Chapter (4-268) Chicago Municipal Code

What is a Street Performer License?

A street performer license is required for individuals that perform in a public area.

The performance may be, but not limited to acting, singing, playing musical instruments, pantomime, juggling, magic, dancing and reciting. The performance may take place on sidewalks, parkways, playgrounds and all other public ways located in the City of Chicago.

- The license does not authorize performances on transit platforms and stations operated by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) or the Metropolitan Transportation Authority or (MTA). To perform on a transit platform or station, contact the CTA or MTA directly.

Street Performer License Requirements:

- ✓ **\$100 license fee, license is renewed every two years.**
- ✓ **Identification such as a driver's license or other official photo identification.**
- ✓ **Any outstanding City debt, such as parking tickets or water bills must be paid.**

Street Performer Rules to Follow:

License Displayed:

Street performers should always carry and display a permit on his or person at all times while performing in a public area, and must wear the permit in a manner that is clearly visible to the public.

Hours of Operation:

A performance may take place in any public area, but only between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Sundays –Thursdays. 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays.

Blocking the Public Way:

A performer may not block the passage of the public through a public area.

- If a sufficient crowd gathers to see or hear a performer and blocks the passage of the public on the public way, a police officer may disperse that portion of the crowd that is blocking the passage of the public, or may order the performer to stop performing at that location until the conditions causing the congestion have abated.
- A performer may not perform on the public way that obstructs access to private property, except with the prior consent of the owner or manager of the property.

Noise Control Limitations:

A performer should comply and understand the relevant portions of the noise and vibration control provisions of the Chicago Environmental Noise Ordinance, Article XXI of Chapter 11-4 of the Municipal Code. The following information has been summarized from this chapter.

- A street performer should not generate any sound by any means so that the sound is louder than an average conversational level at a distance of 100 feet or more, measured either horizontally or vertically from the point of generation. Street performers that are found liable for violating this ordinance more than 2 times in a calendar year may face a license revocation.

(Continued) Noise Control Limitations:

- Additionally, any noise violation that may be heard within 200 ft. will be considered an additional violation and be cause to have a license revoked for one year and fines. Any person violating this section is also subject to 24 hours of community service.
- Street performers operating in the area bounded by Lake Michigan on the east, Oak Street on the north, Congress Parkway on the south and LaSalle Street and Wacker Drive on the west (including both sides of the named boundary streets), and have exceeded the noise limitations and given notice and requested to move by a police officer or department of environment personnel, should move the location of his or her performance at least two city blocks from the location where the noise violation occurred.

Prohibited Areas:

- The license does not authorize performances on transit platforms and stations operated by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) or the Metropolitan Transportation Authority or (MTA). To perform on a transit platform or station, contact the CTA or MTA directly.
- Street performers may not operate on both sides of Michigan Avenue, bounded by East Delaware Place on the north and East Superior Street on the south.
- Street performers may not operate along the portion of Jackson Boulevard that lies between Columbus Drive and Lake Shore Drive when a concert is being performed in the Petrillo Music Shell.
- Street performers may not operate and emit noise that a person with normal hearing may hear more than 20 feet away, along the portion of Randolph Street that lies between Columbus Drive and Michigan Avenue, and along that portion of Columbus Drive that lies between Michigan Avenue and Monroe Street, at any time during which a concert is being performed in the Jay Pritzker Pavilion
- Street performers may not operate at any time in Millennium Park, or on any sidewalk that abuts Millennium Park, as that term is defined in section 10-36-140.

Performing during Special events:

Licensed Street Performers must adhere to the specific event's Street Performer Rules and Regulations available at the Department of Business Affairs and Licensing and at the Street Performer Check-in, located at the event sites.

File the application in Person:

You can apply in person at the Department of Business Affairs & Consumer Protection, 121 N. LaSalle St. City Hall, Room 800. Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. An appointment is not required, but recommended and can made online at www.cityofchicago.org/bacp or by calling (312) 74-GOBIZ / 744-6249.



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