



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

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In the matter of the request of )  
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**MARTINIZEF HOLDINGS, LLC** )  
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At the April 9, 2026 meeting of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (Commission) in Lansing, Michigan.

PRESENT: Kristin Beltzer, Chair  
Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Commissioner

**DENIAL OF DECLARATORY RULING REQUEST**

MartiniZef Holdings, LLC (MartiniZef), filed a “petition for declaratory relief” on March 19, 2026. Thus, this is a request for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Mich Admin Code, R 436.1971 and MCL 24.263. At a meeting held on April 9, 2026, the Commission voted to deny the request to issue a declaratory ruling.

An interested person may request a declaratory ruling as to the applicability of a statute administered by an agency or an agency’s order or rule to an actual state of facts. MCL 24.263; Mich Admin Code, R 436.1971. Upon receipt of a request, the Commission has 30 days within which to notify the petitioner whether it will issue a declaratory ruling. Mich Admin Code, R 436.1973(1); R 436.1975. If the request is granted, the Commission must issue a ruling within 90 days of receipt of the request. Mich Admin Code, R 436.1973(2)(f). If the request is denied, the Commission must issue a concise written statement of the principal reasons for denial within 30 days of the denial. Mich Admin Code, R 436.1975.

## **I. Relevant Facts**

MartiniZef has applied to obtain by transfer a Class C license held by L.L. Restaurant, Inc. (LL). Another entity, Flushing Investments, LLC (Flushing), owns the premises where LL formerly operated its licensed business. In January 2025, LL and Flushing agreed to transfer the Class C license to Flushing, subject to Commission approval. Flushing later assigned its rights under that agreement to MartiniZef.

In July 2025, the Commission issued Complaint CV-520983 against LL, asserting that a \$33,538.80 payment it made to the Commission for spirits had been dishonored by its bank because the account was closed. The Commission found LL responsible for the charge in the complaint and assessed a fine. LL has not paid the money owed for the purchase of spirits, the fine, or the related fee (collectively, LL's debt).

## **II. MartiniZef's request**

Mich Admin Code, R 436.1049(3) prohibits a licensee from transferring a license before paying "all outstanding fines, fees, or charges levied by the [C]ommission, except upon prior written order of the [C]ommission." MartiniZef asks the Commission to order that LL's license can be transferred to MartiniZef before LL's debt has been paid. It also asks the Commission to declare that neither Flushing nor MartiniZef are responsible for LL's debt and that the Commission's enforcement division must investigate LL's spirits purchase that precipitated the violation complaint.

## **III. Principal Reasons for Denial**

The Commission denies MartiniZef's request because MartiniZef does not ask how a Commission rule or order or a statute that the Commission administers applies to an actual state of facts.

First, MartiniZef appears to recognize that Mich Admin Code, R 436.1049(3)

precludes the license transfer before LL's debt is paid. Instead, MartiniZef asks the Commission to disregard that rule under these facts. That request is not appropriately addressed in a declaratory-ruling request. Further, the Commission has a duty to follow its own administrative rules. *Grass Lake Improvement Bd v Dep't of Environmental Quality*, 316 Mich App 356, 359 (2016).

Second, MartiniZef's requests that the Commission declare that neither it nor Flushing are responsible for LL's debt and that the Enforcement division must investigate LL's June 2025 spirits purchase do not ask the Commission to examine how a Commission rule or order or Commission administered statute applies to these facts. Thus, these matters are not appropriate for a declaratory ruling.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

For the foregoing reasons, the Commission declines to issue a declaratory ruling in response to MartiniZef's request.

MICHIGAN LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION



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Kristin Beltzer, Chair



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Hoon-Yung Hopgood, Commissioner