

**SPECIAL EVENT
TEMPORARY FOOD SERVICE
ORGANIZER PACKAGE**



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CLAYTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR ORGANIZING A SPECIAL EVENT

The following information provided in this packet is to assist you in fulfilling the requirements set forth in the Clayton County Health Department Food Service Rules and Regulations. These guidelines will help you through the application process to obtain your temporary food service permit(s) and keep your special event operation or festival free of the risk of food poisoning to the public.

The goal of the Clayton County Health Department is to protect the public's health by preventing food-borne illness, by assuring that foods sold and served to the public are wholesome and free from contamination or spoilage, and by promoting food service establishments' compliance with state and county regulations.

According to the FDA 2001 Code, ensuring safe food is an important public health priority for our nation. An estimated 76 million illnesses, 323,914 hospitalizations, and 5,194 deaths are attributable to foodborne illness in the United States each year. The estimated cost of foodborne illness is \$10-\$83 billion annually. For some consumers, foodborne illness results only in mild, temporary discomfort or lost time from work or other daily activity. For others, especially pre-school age children, older adults, and those with impaired immune systems, foodborne illness may have serious or long-term consequences, and most seriously, may be life threatening. The risk of foodborne illness is of increasing concern due to aging of our population, increasing numbers of immunocompromised and immunosuppressed individuals, and changes in food production practices.

Enclosed in this packet are the required application and other information pertinent to your food service.

These guidelines for temporary food service are intended to assist in interpreting the code of Georgia Annotated, Title 88 Public Health, Chapter 88-10. If you have any questions about the process, please contact our office.

*** The three (3) types of food service permitted by the Clayton County Health Department for Special Events in conjunction with festivals, fairs, or similar transitory gatherings are:**

1. "Temporary Food Service Operation" means any food-service establishment that operates at the same location for a temporary period of time, not to exceed 14 consecutive days, in conjunction with a fair, carnival, circus, public exhibition or similar transitory gathering
2. "Restricted Food Service Operation" means a food service operation that serves only food products that requires cooking immediately prior to serving.
3. "Special Food Service Operation" includes Mobile Food Unit, Temporary Food Service Operation and Restricted Food Service Operation.

Mobile food units that serve only individually wrapped single food products on a permanent basis do not need to apply for a Clayton County Health Department Food Permit. Such food units are permitted and regulated by the Department of Agriculture. Please contact them for proper procedures to receive a permit.

Catering food operations are prohibited in a home by the Clayton County Board of Health.

Definitions important to know during your process

- 1) "Food Service Establishment" means establishments for the preparation and serving of meals, lunches, short orders sandwiches, frozen desserts, or other edible products. The term includes restaurants, coffee shops; cafeterias; short order cafes; luncheonettes; taverns; lunchrooms, places which manufacture, wholesale, or retain sandwiches or salads; soda fountains; institutions, both public and private; itinerant restaurants; industrial cafeterias; catering establishments; food vending machines and vehicles and operations connected therewith; and similar facilities by whatever name called.
- 2) "Potentially Hazardous Food" means any perishable food which has as an ingredient milk or milk products, eggs, meat, poultry, fish, shellfish, or other foods or other ingredients in such forms as are capable of supporting rapid and progressive development of infectious or disease causing agents. The term does not include foods that have a pH level of 4.6 or below or a water activity value of 0.85 or less.
- 3) "Commissary" means a catering establishment, restaurant, or any other place in which food, containers, or supplies are kept, handled, prepared, packaged or stored for subsequent transport, sale or service elsewhere.
- 4) "Food Sales Establishment" means retail and wholesale grocery stores; retail seafood stores and places of business; food processing plants, except those food processing plants which are currently required to obtain a license from the Commissioner and under other provision of law; bakeries; confectioneries, fruit, nuts and vegetable stores and places of business, and similar establishments, mobile or permanent, engaged in the sale of food primarily for consumption off the premises. This term shall not include "food service establishments" as defined in Code Section 26-2-370.
- 5) "Mobile Food Unit" - Only temporary food permits are issued for mobile food units operating with a potable water system with sufficient capacity to furnish hot and cold water for food preparation, utensil washing and hand washing and a retention tank for waste water storage and must operate at the same location for a temporary period of time, not to exceed fourteen (14) days in conjunction with a fair, carnival, circus, public exhibition, or similar transitory gathering.
- 6) "Potable" means water intended for human consumption that meets the bacteriological and chemical requirements of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Act, or other regulatory agency having equivalent authority.

