



Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

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Community Health Services

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Division of Environmental Health

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Assembly Bill 1616 was passed and signed into law in September of this past year. It is known as the “Cottage Food Bill”. It will allow persons to prepare non-potentially hazardous foods in their home kitchen. Cottage food operators will be required to complete a food processor course in order to open a business. A cottage food operator will have to register with the local Environmental Health Agency if it is a “Class A” business or obtain a permit to operate if it is a “Class B” business. A “Class A” business will be able to sell only directly to consumers. A “Class B” business will be able to make indirect sales to local retail food businesses in addition to direct sales. The entire law can be read at:

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/asm/ab_1601-1650/ab_1616_bill_20120921_chaptered.pdf

Other information regarding the “Cottage Food Bill” and including information about the required food processing course can be found at the California Department of Public Health, Food and Drug Branch website:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/Pages/fdbCottageFood.aspx> .

An application to start a cottage food business will have to be submitted to the Environmental Health Division prior to beginning a Cottage Food Operation (CFO).

- ÿ For a “Class A” CFO submit the application for registration and check the boxes for “Class A” registration. Fill out the Self-Certification Checklist and submit with the application. Include payment of \$64 for registration.
- ÿ For a “Class B” CFO submit the application for a permit and check the boxes for “Class B” permitting. Include payment of \$182 for permitting.
- ÿ For a CFO kitchen that is connected to a private well or other private water source, include a water sample result testing the water for potability with your application. The water sample must be tested for bacteriological content. Include a private water fee of \$135 with the application.

Please check with the County Tax Collector or city business licensing for any business license requirements and the County or city planning and building agency for any zoning or use permit requirements.

For additional information please contact the Environmental Health Division at 707-463-4466.

Administrative Services 747 S. State St. Ukiah, CA 95482 Ph. 707-472-2333 Fax 707-472-2335	Adult & Aging Services 747 S. State St. Ukiah, CA 95482 Ph. 707-463-7900 Fax 707-463-7979	Children & Family Services 727 S. State St. Ukiah, CA 95482 Ph. 707-463-7990 Fax 707-463-7960	Behavioral Health & Recovery Services 1120 S. Dora St. Ukiah, CA 95482 Ph. 707-472-2300 Fax 707-472-2306	Public Health Services 1120 S. Dora St. Ukiah, CA 95482 Ph. 707-472-2700 Fax 707-472-2773	Employment & Family Assistance Services 737 S. State St. Ukiah, CA 95482 Ph. 707-463-7700 Fax 707-463-7859
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