

Potluck Events

Applying Minnesota Statutes, section 157.22, on “potluck”

What is a potluck? A meal at which attendees bring food that is donated and shared by the attendees. Also known as a potluck supper. Any fundraising efforts must be separate from the potluck event. Events sponsored by a licensed food establishment or for which food is prepared or held in the kitchen of a licensed food establishment is not a potluck event.

Situation

Organization ABC publicly advertises a potluck event. The ad states that everyone bring a chicken (cooked at home or bought ready-to-eat from a store) and a side dish to share. The organizers of the event will provide desserts, beverages, and paper supplies.

Application

This is a potluck event because food and/or supplies are donated and shared by attendees.

Situation

A religious group would like to sell frozen pizzas to the community to raise funds for a new addition.

Application

This is a special food event, not a potluck, and the governmental agency may require a license.

Situation

A school PTA publicly advertises a potluck event for the parents of third grade students. Each parent brings some food to share; the school provides paper supplies and beverages. The food is served in the school’s cafeteria, but it is not brought into the kitchen.

Application

This is a potluck event. The food is donated and shared, and it is not brought into the licensed kitchen. (MN Statutes, chapter 157, requires school kitchens to be licensed.)

Situation

Organization ABC publicly advertises a lutefisk dinner. All of the food will be prepared at a local social club.

Application

This is not a potluck event. This event requires a license. The attendees are not donating or sharing food.

Situation

Organization ABC publicly advertises a food event that will be held at a licensed food establishment. All of the hot food will be held hot in the ovens in the kitchen of the licensed food establishment.

Application

A food event does not qualify as a potluck event if it uses the kitchen of a licensed food establishment.

Situation

Organization ABC publicly advertises a food event. Someone is willing to roast a pig for the event, but will not be reimbursed by the organization for the cost. All food is donated and shared among attendees. The food is not brought into a licensed kitchen.

Application

This is a potluck event. If the person is roasting and donating the pig as their contribution to the event, no license is required.

For Further Information Contact the Following MDH District Offices

Bemidji	◆	(218) 308-2100
Duluth	◆	(218) 723-4642
Fergus Falls	◆	(218) 332-5150
Mankato	◆	(507) 344-2700
Marshall	◆	(507) 537-7151
Metro	◆	(651) 201-4500
Rochester	◆	(507) 206-2700
St. Cloud	◆	(320) 223-7300

To request this document in another format, call 651-201-4500 or TTY 651-201-5797.

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