



# HOME OCCUPATION BUSINESSES

**To promote business opportunities**, the City of Arcata has adopted standards for “Home Occupation” businesses. These standards allow many types of businesses to operate out of a residence. At the same time, the standards protect neighbors from business traffic and business activities that aren’t compatible with residential neighborhoods.

**If you will operate your business from your home**, the Home Occupation Affidavit needs to be completed and submitted to the Community Development Department – usually at the same time your Business License application is submitted. It is reviewed by a City Planner to ensure the business is allowed in a residential neighborhood.

## **Types of Allowed Business Operations**

This list shows the types of businesses already determined to be appropriate for home business operations, but is not a complete list. The Director of Community Development may approve business types not on this list.

- ▶ Artist studios – ceramics, painting, photography, sculpture, and similar activities
- ▶ Tailoring and sewing operations
- ▶ Businesses with small offices: architects, attorneys, consultants, counselors, insurance agents, e-commerce, tutors, writers, and other similar occupations
- ▶ Personal trainers, and licensed massage and physical therapists

## **Limitations to Business Operations**

- ▶ The business must be clearly secondary to the residence – the property must look like a residence
- ▶ Business activity may not be visible – no window displays are allowed
- ▶ Signs must be 2 square feet or less and attached flush to a wall
- ▶ Only standard household hazardous materials are allowed
- ▶ Materials and equipment may not be stored outside
- ▶ Only full-time residents of the home may be employees of the business
- ▶ Customer/Client Visits must be between 9:00am and 8:00pm and are limited to 12 vehicle trips per day
- ▶ Electric and gas utilities may not be modified to accommodate the home business

## **Types of Operations Not Allowed**

- ◀ Operations that cause dust, glare, heat, noise, odors, smoke, excessive traffic, or vibration
- ◀ Those using explosives, hazardous, toxic, or highly combustible materials
- ◀ Vehicle repair shops, storage yards, machine shops, wood-cutting, and welding operations
- ◀ Animal hospitals or boarding facilities, medical clinics and labs, and sex-oriented businesses

Please note that this is a *summary* of Home Occupation Businesses standards – please see the City’s Land Use Code Chapter 9.42.090 for complete home occupation standards and requirements.

**Good luck with your business! Please let us know if you have questions.**

