

# Operating a Restaurant and Selling Food at Home are Illegal!



Operating a restaurant, café or other eatery and preparing food at home for sale are violations of Prince George's County Code that can create safety hazards!



- **Fire!** Cooking large amounts of food in an apartment, condo, town house or detached house may lead to fires because stoves not designed for mass production of meals may ignite.



- **Carbon monoxide poisoning!** Many residences are not equipped with ventilation systems suitable for mass production of meals. Breathing carbon monoxide can result in serious injury.



- **Stranger danger!** Bringing strangers into your home to purchase food exposes your family and neighbors to possibly unscrupulous people.



- **Rats and roaches!** Rats are drawn to all types of foods and roaches flock to counters, cupboards and floors where food has been dropped. Food storage and prep areas used to produce large quantities of food may draw vermin and their germs!

Operating an illegal restaurant or food sales operation can lead to a fine of up to \$2,300 and other consequences.

Don't put yourself or your family at risk! Don't create a public nuisance for your neighborhood!

**If you are operating an illegal restaurant or selling food at home, STOP immediately!**

For more information about farmers' markets and other permitted options to sell food, visit the DPIE website at <http://dpi.e.mypgc.us> and select the Resources tab under About DPIE. Information is available in other languages.



Prince George's County  
Department of Permitting,  
Inspections and Enforcement

9400 Peppercorn Place  
Largo, Maryland 20774  
301-636-2000

