

**January 17, 2016**

### **Can You Cook From Home, Then Deliver? – Part I**

This is a very common question, and misconception. And the question is valid. In every state, with minimal and rare exceptions (like living on an Indian reservation) you can only prepare food (in part or wholly) using a commercially licensed kitchen, or, by cooking at the residence of the paying client. The above applies to for-profit meal creation only. If you donate your meals, without accepting any reimbursement (even for products used), then in most every state you may cook at home or a non-licensed kitchen and give the food away. In theory, a commercial kitchen is inspected on a regular basis and has the features, service requirements and safety needs in place. The reason behind this is for the safe production of food for consumption. And while you keep a clean kitchen at home and are aware of safe food handling techniques, there is no method to insure that you are operating in a safe manner. And because you are accepting compensation for your food, you must be inspected (meaning licensed). And it's not just the cooking of the food, but the delivery also. Food that is perfect at your home, can easily enter a temperature danger range in transit without adequate safeguards. Keeping food hot, or cold, can be an issue and an expense, and is one people could easily skip over assuming that everything will be ok. Cooking from home, then delivering meals, for profit (or any monetary payment) means you are in violation. If a restaurant serves food that makes someone ill, inspectors come in and instruct what needs to be corrected. If this happened to you – well – first they would issue a citation for not having a commercial kitchen license, and upon inspection of your kitchen you will get a second citation for operating a commercial kitchen which does not met code. At this point, you are effectively closed.

