UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Proposed Food Handler Rule

Administrative Rules Review Committee

Background

Guiding Principles

Consistency: Standards to be consistent throughout the state
Reciprocity: Permits accepted statewide
Transparency: Clear specifications of requirements for all parties, tests, and fees
Fairness: Any entity can participate in training and testing
Accountability: UDOH and Local Health Departments are responsible for ensuring food safety

Authorizing Statues:

- 26-15-2. Minimum rules of sanitation established by department
- 26-15-5. Requirements for food handlers
- 26A-1-106. Assistance in establishing local departments - Monitoring and standards of performance - Responsibilities

Proposed Rule

Purpose

- UDOH and Local Health Departments are responsible for protecting the public's health
- Food-borne illness results from improper handling of food and/or poor hygiene of food workers
- Provide a statewide, consistent approach to food handler testing, training, and permitting

Permitting

Food handlers must have a valid food-handler card. Cards will be valid for three years, will be uniform and accepted statewide. Registered training providers will certify food handlers. A statewide, uniform fee may be charged for issuing the card. Cards are not a valid form if ID.

Training

Training courses will cover the top five food-borne illness prevention techniques. Registered training providers will maintain a list of past and current trainers.

Testing

UDOH will provide food-handler test questions to training providers, or will approve a provider's individually developed test questions. A fee may be charged for evaluating and approving tests. Exams may be written, oral, or on-line. A person must correctly answer at least 70 percent of the questions to obtain a permit. Training providers will maintain a list of candidates who have taken the test.

Training Provider Registration

UDOH will approve and register all training providers. Providers must submit an evaluation that demonstrates their curriculum meets the requirements of the proposed rule. Fees may be charged to register the provider, approve curriculums, and conduct compliance audits.