



City of Acworth Community Development Department

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Home Occupations



The City of Acworth's Zoning Ordinance provides for a conditional use approval process for home occupations within residential zoning districts. These uses are allowed in dwelling units on the basis that such uses are incidental to the use of the premises as a residence. They have special regulations that apply to ensure that home occupations will not be a detriment to the character and livability of the surrounding neighborhood. The regulations ensure that the accessory home occupation remains subordinate to the residential use and the residential viability of the dwelling is maintained. The regulations recognize that many types of jobs can be done in a home with little or no effect on the surrounding neighborhood. Examples of permissible home occupations include residents use their home as a place of work, home office or business mailing address, artists, crafts people, writers, consultants, tutoring and family daycare.

Are there occupations which cannot be permitted as a Home Occupation?

Yes, there are uses that do not meet the intention of the Ordinance. An occupation may not utilize more than 25 percent of the dwelling's floor area. There shall be no exterior evidence of the home occupation or alteration of the residence and/or accessory buildings to accommodate the home occupation.

Internal or external changes which will make the dwelling appear less residential in nature or function are prohibited. Examples of such prohibited alterations include construction of parking lots (either paved or through use of other material – gravel, etc.), paving of required setbacks, or adding commercial-like exterior lighting. There shall be no outside operations or exterior storage of inventory or materials to be used in conjunction with a home occupation. There shall be no off-site employees permitted to work at the residence (all employees must reside at the premises). You may refer to Section 74 of the Zoning Ordinance available online for full regulations of Home Occupations.

What is the process to obtain a Home Occupation?

First you will need to obtain a Home Occupation License Application from Customer Service (also available online at www.acworth.org). You will be required to post a public notice sign in your yard for a period of no less than 10 days during the review process. Once approved, the license will be assessed annually for renewal (without reposting).

I think my neighbor may be running a business improperly from their home. May I remain anonymous if I make a complaint?

Yes. You may make a complaint or inquiry with our Code Compliance Department if you suspect your neighbor is running a business that is not in compliance with the City's Codes. It is important to know that any information provided to the Code Compliance Department, including names, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses, are subject to the Open Records Act and must be provided to anyone who requests the information. If you do not wish for certain information to be released, do not provide that to us. The Code Compliance Officers may be reached at (770) 974-3112.