

# What is a Home Based Business?

The popularity of home based businesses in Hernando County has grown extensively over the past several years. More and more residents are deciding to work for themselves at home in occupations like: landscaping, computer repair, consulting, home repair, sales and marketing, financial services, insurance, and many others. With this increased interest, the Office of Business Development and Code Enforcement Department have created this brochure to assist residents in starting and maintaining their home based business in accordance with County regulations.

As defined by the Hernando County Zoning Regulations, a home based business consists of occupations or activities which are customarily maintained or conducted within a dwelling. Such activities are incidental to the principal residential use and involve the employment of no more than one person who does not reside on the premises. Such activities shall occupy no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total floor area of the dwelling. Home occupations in the Agricultural District may utilize an accessory structure provided the area of the accessory structure utilized by the home occupation does not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the living area of the principal dwelling.

## Hernando County... The Business Gateway to Tampa Bay

### Why Tampa Bay?



•Seven Counties

•3.3 Million Residents

•Largest Consumer Market in Florida

•Second Largest Market in Southeast United States



## Home Based Business Information

Hernando County  
Office of Business Development  
26 East Liberty Street  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
352-540-6400  
[www.hernandobusiness.com](http://www.hernandobusiness.com)

Hernando County Code Enforcement  
20 North Main Street, Room 164  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
352-754-4056  
[www.co.hernando.fl.us/code](http://www.co.hernando.fl.us/code)



# Getting Started

The information contained in this brochure is meant to act as a **guide** for home based business owners. If there is any concern regarding the interpretation of the items below, contact the Code Enforcement Department at 352-754-4056 for further clarification.

Each home based business owner should start by asking themselves the following questions and taking appropriate action. Identifying areas of concern and properly researching the County regulations prior to opening the business will save both time and money.

The rules and regulations set forth by the County are to protect its citizens and their assets. If you have concerns regarding compliance, it is recommended you contact the Code Enforcement Department.

## **Do I need an Occupational License?**

An occupational/business license is required only for businesses located within the Brooksville City limits. Contact the Hernando County Tax Collector at 352-754-4180 for an application. Everyone doing business in Hernando County is advised to check with the Tangible Tax Department of the Property Appraiser's office to obtain information about requirements on Tangible taxes. They can be reached at (352)754-4190.

## **What type of business can I conduct ?**

To determine the type of business you can operate out of your home you must first verify your zoning district, contact the Zoning Department at 352-754-4050. The zoning may directly impact the rules and regulations applied to home based businesses.

# In Your Home

## **Will I have employees and or customers coming to my home?**

Generally, a home based business cannot have employees or customers at the home. A special exemption is required if you will have employees, other than those who reside in the household and/or customers coming to your home. To apply for a special exemption, contact the Planning Department at 352-754-4057.

## **Do I live in a Deed Restricted neighborhood?**

Many sub-divisions have deed restrictions in addition to the County regulations. Generally these are more restrictive. Check with your home owners association to ensure compliance.

## **Will I use a vehicle?**

If yes, the vehicle cannot exceed 10,000lbs GVW, 80 inches in width or have a modified truck body. Vehicles exceeding these parameters are not permitted in neighborhoods.

## **Will I have commercial equipment?**

If your home based business requires commercial equipment it must be stored and not visible from the right of way and/or the adjacent properties.

## **Do I want to have a sign?**

A sign identifying your business will require a special exemption. Contact the Planning Department at 352-754-4057 for procedures.

## **Can I sell my products on my property?**

Yes, if your property is zoned agricultural and you are selling permitted agricultural products and services produced on premises. To verify your zoning, contact the Zoning Department at 352-754-4050.

# Based Business

## **Can I receive business mail at my home address?**

Yes, however it is recommended to have a post office box for business correspondence.

## **I live within city limits, are there any special regulations?**

Yes, many times City regulations differ from the County. Contact the City of Brooksville Development Department at 352-544-5430 for complete details.

## **Does Hernando County have a website I can use for reference?**

Yes, the County web address is: [www.hernandocounty.us](http://www.hernandocounty.us) You will find links to all departments, services, publications and County events.

## **Where can I get information on business loans, advice, training, etc?**

Listed below are resources for business counseling and assistance:

**The Hernando County Chamber of Commerce.....**352-796-0697

**SCORE—Service Corp of Retired Executives.....**727-842-4638

**USF Small Business Development Center.....**813-905-5800

**Small Business Administration.....**202-205-6744