

---

## Sec. 21-11-5. Home Occupations.

- (a) *Purpose.* The purposes of this Section are to:
- (1) Provide an opportunity for home occupations as an accessory use when they are compatible with the neighborhoods in which they are located.
  - (2) Provide an opportunity for a home occupation to engage in the business of child care and other group child activities and encourage this type of home occupation to draw clients/customers from their immediate neighborhood.
  - (3) Guide business activities which are not compatible with neighborhoods to appropriate commercial zones.
  - (4) Safeguard peace, quiet, and domestic tranquility within all residential neighborhoods. Protect residents from the adverse effects of business uses being conducted in residential areas from noise, nuisance, traffic, fire hazards, and other possible business uses that create significant impacts on a neighborhood.
  - (5) Provide a means to enforce and regulate the businesses that are licensable through the authority of the business license regulations of this Code, and, if necessary, terminate home occupations if violations of the ordinances regulating home occupations occur.
- (b) *Home Occupation License.* All home occupations shall be licensed unless specifically provided an exemption in this Section or in the business license regulations of this Code. Regardless of whether a license is required, all home occupations must adhere to the standards and qualifications listed in this Section. The authority to issue a license to conduct a home occupation shall be under the jurisdiction of the Business License Office of the Community Development Department.
- (c) *Categories and Requirements of Home Occupation Licenses.* Home occupation businesses are classified as Category I, Permitted Home Occupation, or Category II, Conditional Use Home Occupation. A Category II, Conditional Use Home Occupation requires review and approval of the Planning Commission.
- (d) *Home Occupation Standards.* All home occupations, licensed or not, shall comply with the following standards at all times:
- (1) *Bona Fide Resident.* The home occupation business shall be owned by and carried on only by a bona fide resident of the home that resides in the home more than six months (183 days or more) per calendar year. Proof of residency shall be provided as follows:
    - a. A signed statement stating that the property is the primary residence of the business owner and will remain as the primary residence for the duration of the home occupation license; and
    - b. A government-issued identification listing the address of the property as the address of the business owner, unless the Director determines, for good cause, it is not required.
  - (2) *Satellite Office Not Allowed.* A home occupation shall not be construed to mean an employee working in his home in the service of an employer whose principal place of business is licensed at another location. Business activities that do not qualify for the exemption from licensure as described in this Section shall not be conducted at the home of an employee of a company and shall not be conducted by nonresident company employees.
  - (3) *Accessory Use on the Property.* For residential purposes, the home occupation shall be clearly secondary and incidental to the primary use of the dwelling unit.
  - (4) *On-Site Employees.* One full-time or full-time equivalent nonresident may be employed, volunteer, or work on the premises where the home occupation business is located. No more than two persons shall

- 
- comprise the equivalent full-time employee, and only one nonresident employee may work at the home at one time.
- (5) *Off-Site Employees.* Any home occupation may utilize employees to work off-site. The off-site employee, volunteer, hiree, or any other person engaged with the home occupation shall not come to the home for purposes related to the home occupation business license except for incidental vehicle stops.
  - (6) *Off-Street Parking.* All business-related vehicles which park at the location of the home occupation, including those of the applicant, employee, customers, clients, or business-related visitor vehicles, must use off-street parking. This provision excludes stops made by delivery vehicles.
  - (7) *Vehicle Advertisement.* Vehicles, trailers, or equipment may not be used for the primary purpose of advertising the home occupation at the site of the home occupation.
  - (8) *Designating Areas of Property to be Used.* The home occupation applicant must designate the portion of the home, accessory structure, yard, or attached or detached garage to be used as the location for business activities. No businesses are allowed to operate outside of an enclosed structure, unless otherwise approved by the Planning Commission for outside activities.
  - (9) *External Appearance.* The home occupation must maintain or improve the external residential appearance of the principal structure, attached or detached garage, or accessory structure. Any structural alterations to accommodate the home occupation shall maintain the architectural aesthetics and compatibility of the neighborhood.
  - (10) *Outdoor/Yard Space.* The home occupation shall not involve the use of any yard space for storage or display of supplies, inventory, or equipment when such use is in conjunction with the sales, service, or production of goods, unless specifically stored within trailers or accessory structures as allowed herein. Any screened area or structure used for the home occupation must be located in either the side or rear yard areas.
  - (11) *Business Trailer.* One trailer may be used in association with the home occupation. Trailers allowed in conjunction with a home occupation are as follows:
    - a. An open or enclosed trailer with a body length of 20 feet or less, excluding the tongue.
    - b. Materials/equipment shall not be stored outside of the trailer.
    - c. The trailer shall be placed in the side or rear yard behind a fence or garaged on private property and not within the front yard of the dwelling. If the home is located on a corner lot, the trailer shall not be stored on the street side of the house unless it is out of the required front yard setback. If the topography of the lot prohibits the parking of the trailer on the side or rear yard, the trailer must be stored off-site.
    - d. The trailer must be well-maintained and must not present negative impacts for adjacent neighbors, including, but not limited to, odors, dust, or parking location.
    - e. All areas utilized for the parking of trailers shall be paved with a hard surface (e.g., concrete, asphalt, brick, or other water impenetrable surface). This includes the side and rear yard of the home. It is prohibited to park upon areas that have been landscaped or are reserved for future landscaping.
    - f. A site plan shall be included with all business license applications indicating where the trailer will be stored outside of the front yard.
  - (12) *Commercial Vehicle.* Only one such vehicle may be parked on a residential lot. A commercial vehicle parked or stored on a residential lot must be owned or apportioned by an occupant who resides at the

---

residence. This vehicle must comply with all residential parking requirements contained within this title.

- (13) *Conformity with Safety Codes.* There shall be complete conformity with fire, building, plumbing, electrical, and all other City, County, State, and Federal codes.
- (14) *Health and Safety.* No process can be used which is hazardous to public health, safety, morals, or welfare.
- (15) *No Excessive Utility Uses.* The home occupation shall not cause a demand for municipal, community, or utility services that are substantially in excess of those usually and customarily provided for residential uses.
- (16) *Neighborhood Disruptions Not Permitted.* The home occupation shall not interfere or disrupt the peace, quiet, and domestic tranquility of the neighborhood. The home occupation shall not create or be associated with or produce odor, smoke, dust, heat, fumes, light, glare, noises or vibrations, excessive traffic, or other nuisances, including interferences with radio and television reception, or any other adverse effects within the neighborhood.
- (17) *Renter/Owner Responsibility.* If the applicant for a home occupation license rents or leases the property wherein the home occupation is intended to be conducted, the applicant must provide a letter of acknowledgment and consent from the property owner at the time the application is submitted to the Business License Office.
- (18) *Interior Alterations/Remodeling.* Interior alterations of the principal dwelling for the purpose of accommodating the home occupation are prohibited if such alteration eliminates the kitchen, and/or all of the dining areas, bathrooms, living areas, or all of the bedrooms.
- (19) *Exempt from Business Licensure.* A business license will not be required unless the combined off-site impact of the home occupation and the primary residential use materially exceeds the impact of the primary residential use alone. If a home occupation has any of the following impacts, a business license is required:
  - a. Business-related customers, client visits, or meetings on the property.
  - b. Signage or advertising of the business that is visible from the exterior of the home.
  - c. The business owner or operator desires a physical copy of a business license.
  - d. Any nonresident working on the property.
  - e. Business-related deliveries are made to or from the property.
  - f. Accessory or commercial vehicles are stored or parked on the property for the home occupation.
  - g. The home or property requires inspections from any regulatory authority or agency, including, but not limited to, the City, Salt Lake Valley Health Department, and/or the Department of Agriculture.
  - h. The business generates any additional vehicular traffic or parking on the property.
  - i. If the State requires a sales tax number for any reason.
  - j. If the home occupation is categorized as a Category II, Conditional Use Home Occupations, as described herein.
  - k. If the home requires any modification requiring a building permit to accommodate the business operations.
  - l. When the business use within the home exceeds 25 percent of the primary dwelling.

- 
- (e) *Category I Qualifications.* In addition to the standards previously set forth above, all Category I home occupation businesses must also comply with the provision of the qualifications outlined below. If a business finds that they are unable to fully comply with all of the qualifications set forth, the applicant may pursue possible approval as a Category II home occupation through the conditional use permit process before submitting the application for a home occupation business license.
- (1) *Hours.* No visitors in conjunction with the home occupation (clients, patrons, employees, volunteers, students, pupils, etc.) shall be permitted between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
  - (2) *Traffic.* Vehicular traffic from business related visitors and customers shall not exceed that which normally and reasonably occurs for a home in the neighborhood and shall be conducted so that the neighbors will not be significantly impacted by its existence. The home occupation shall be limited to two business related visitors or customers per hour, to a maximum of eight business related visitors or customers per day. Business related deliveries or pickups shall not exceed two per day.
  - (3) *Delivery Vehicles.* The receipt or delivery of merchandise, goods, or supplies for use in a home occupation shall be limited to vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 23,000 pounds or less.
  - (4) *Conducted in a Home.* When business activities are being conducted on the property that is to be licensed, the home occupation shall be primarily conducted within the principal home.
  - (5) *Maximum Floor Space.* No more than 25 percent of the total main floor area or upper living levels of the dwelling unit, nor, in the alternative, more than 50 percent of the total floor area of any basement of the home unit shall be utilized for the home occupation.
  - (6) *Signs.* The home occupation may utilize one unanimated, nonilluminated flat sign for each street upon which the home abuts. The sign must be placed either in a window or on the exterior wall of the home wherein the home occupation is being conducted and may not have an area greater than one square foot.
  - (7) *Display of Products.* The home occupation may include the sale of tangible goods. Direct sales from display apparatus is permitted only if the goods or products are not visible from the exterior of any approved structure being used for the home occupation.
  - (8) *Food or Beverage Preparation for Consumption Outside of the Home.* Any home occupation involving or proposing to involve food or drink preparation, storage, or catering will be permitted when it is authorized by the appropriate State or County department or agency.
  - (9) *Category I Home Occupation Licensing Involving Child Day Care and Other Child Group Activities.*
    - a. This type of home occupation shall not exceed eight children associated with child day care or other child group activities (e.g., dance schools, preschool, music classes, etc.) at any one time. A maximum of eight students/children are permitted per day. This number shall include the licensee's own children if they are under six years of age and are under the care of the licensee at the time the home occupation is conducted.
    - b. All child day care and other group child activity facilities shall provide safe, outdoor play time and spaces as required by Federal, State, County, or local laws governing such business activities.
  - (10) *Category I Home Occupation License Involving Adult Day Care.*
    - a. This type of home occupation shall not exceed supervising more than two elderly persons 60 years of age or older or more than two persons who have an intellectual or physical disability or acquired brain injury, as defined by the Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD). Any home occupation of this nature which

---

exceeds two individuals or more than 12 hours of operation will be considered a Category II home occupation and shall be reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission.

- b. This type of home occupation must comply with all local and state laws governing such business activity.

(11) *Category I Home Occupation Licensing Involving Renting Recreational Vehicles from Personal Property in Single-Family Residential Zones.*

- a. A property owner/resident living in the home may rent one recreational vehicle that is owned by the owner/resident. Where more than one recreational vehicle can fit on a recreational trailer, the owner may rent a maximum of two recreational vehicles.
- b. Any recreational vehicle must be parked according to the residential parking requirements and restrictions within this title, except that any recreational vehicle that is being rented from the home must be parked on a hard surface (concrete, asphalt, brick, or other impenetrable surface). In addition, the maximum area of hard surface for the purpose of parking a recreational vehicle shall be complied with.
- c. Advertising on the recreational vehicle is prohibited.
- d. Servicing the recreational vehicle shall be limited to those activities which will comply with Chapter 13-2 and Title 19.
- e. Any customer renting the recreational vehicle shall not leave their own car on the street, but may place their vehicle on the homeowner's property in compliance with all residential parking requirements during the time the recreational vehicle is being rented.

(12) *Category I Home Occupation Licensing Involving a Home-based Microschool.*

- a. A Home-based microschool provides kindergarten through grade 12 education services for compensation. A home-based microschool does not include a daycare.
- b. A maximum of eight students is permitted at any one time.
- c. A maximum of eight students is permitted per day.
- d. The maximum number of students includes the licensee's and any employees' children if they are a student at the time the home occupation is conducted.

- (f) *Category II, Conditional Use Permit Required.* If a home occupation is able to comply with all of the standards but is unable to comply with all of the Category I qualifications established above, the proposed business activities must be reviewed by the Planning Commission and granted a conditional use permit before pursuing a home occupation business license through the Business License Office.

(1) *General.* In addition to any conditions established by the Planning Commission at the time of its review, all Category II home occupations must comply with the following:

- a. All Category II home occupation uses shall only be conducted from property with a single-family dwelling.
- b. The conditional use permit and the home occupation business license shall be maintained in good standing for the entire period that business is being conducted.

(2) *Compliance.* Uses are appropriate as licensable home occupations only if they are determined to be compatible with residential neighborhoods after full conditional use review by the Planning Commission, compliance with Title 15, all of the standards and qualifications that have not been granted an exception through the conditional use process, and additional regulations set forth hereafter.

- 
- (3) *Child Day Care.* The following items indicate maximum limits that may be granted by the Planning Commission when a child day care is expected to exceed eight children at one time:
- a. A maximum of 16 children is permitted at any one time.
  - b. A maximum of 18 children is permitted per day.
  - c. These numbers shall include the licensee's and any employees' children if they are under six years of age and are under the care of the licensee at the time the home occupation is conducted.
  - d. A maximum of 24 vehicular stops per day for child drop off or pick up is permitted.
- (4) *Group Child Activities.* The following provisions indicate a maximum limit that may be granted by the Planning Commission for other group child activities which are expected to generate or exceed eight children/students (e.g., dance schools, preschools, music classes, other care or instruction for children) at any one time other than child day care:
- a. The following guidelines shall be used to determine the maximum number of students/children permitted:
    1. A Traffic Plan that has been reviewed and approved by the City Transportation Engineer which includes acceptable traffic flow, drop off, and turn-around areas.
    2. The existing residential street is of sufficient width to accommodate additional vehicular traffic.
  - b. A maximum of 12 students/children per session and a maximum of 24 students/children per day shall be permitted.
  - c. A maximum of four sessions per day may be permitted.
  - d. All sessions combined shall not generate more than 24 vehicular stops per day.
  - e. The total number of students/children shall include the licensee's and any employees' children if they are under six years of age and are under the care of the licensee at the time the home occupation is conducted.
  - f. No group child activities falling under a Category II home occupation may be established within 300 feet as measured from property line to property line of another group child activity, Category II home occupation use.
- (5) *Home-based Microschool.* The following provisions indicate maximum limits that may be granted by the Planning Commission when a Home-based Microschool is unable to fully comply with all the qualifications set forth for a Category I Home Occupation License.
- a. The following shall be used to determine the maximum number of students permitted:
    1. A Traffic Plan that has been reviewed and approved by the City Transportation Engineer which includes acceptable traffic flow, drop off, and turn-around areas.
    2. The existing residential street is of sufficient width to accommodate additional vehicular traffic.
    3. No more than 24 vehicular stops per day for student drop off or pick up is permitted.
  - b. A maximum of 16 students is permitted at any one time.
  - c. A maximum of 16 students is permitted per day.

- 
- d. The maximum number of students includes the licensee's and any employees' children if they are a student at the time the home occupation is conducted.
  - (6) *Work Shops.* Repair shops, including welding, carpentry, sheet metal work, furniture manufacturing, upholstery, and other similar manufacturing activities
  - (7) *Business Not Conducted Within a Home.* Any home occupation which proposes or conducts activities within an outbuilding, accessory building, attached or detached garage. The following standards shall be used to determine the maximum impacts permitted:
    - a. The applicant for a home occupation business license shall designate the areas of the home, attached/detached garage or accessory structure that will be used for the home occupation. If approved, the home occupation may be conducted only in the designated area.
    - b. No more than a maximum of 200 square feet, or, in the alternative, no more than 50 percent of the total floor space (whichever is the greater) of any accessory structure or attached or detached garage may be used for a home occupation unless an exception is granted by the Planning Commission through the conditional use permit, and they find that:
      - 1. The total floor space used for the home occupation in a detached accessory structure does not exceed the maximum size of an accessory structure that is permitted by-right within the zone, as regulated in this title (for example, the size of the accessory structure does not require a conditional use permit); and
      - 2. The use does not adversely impact the residential character of the neighborhood.
    - c. Any home occupation uses in an attached or detached garage may not eliminate minimum parking requirements for the particular zone wherein the home occupation is located. The required minimum off-street parking area shall be maintained and clear of all materials and equipment that would prohibit the parking of vehicles during nonbusiness hours.
    - d. Any accessory structure used for a home occupation must maintain the architectural aesthetics or compatibility of the home and the immediate neighborhood.
    - e. The home occupation may utilize one unanimated, nonilluminated flat sign to be attached to the accessory structure where the home occupation is being conducted in lieu of a sign attached to the home or in a window. The sign may not have an area greater than one square foot.
  - (8) *Home Occupations and Outdoor Activities.* Any home occupations proposing to conduct business utilizing any yard space or in a swimming pool.
  - (9) *Dangerous Home Occupations.* Any home occupation using explosives, incendiary products and devices, flammable, or hazardous chemicals.
  - (10) *Home Occupations Generating Excessive Traffic.* Any home occupation which will generate in excess of two customers or visitors per hour or eight per day. A maximum of 12 business-associated visitors per day may be allowed under a conditional use permit, except as provided for child day care and other group child activities.
  - (11) *Large, Business Related Vehicles.* Any home occupation which utilizes vehicles more than 24 feet in length (with the exception of renting recreational vehicles).
  - (12) *More Than Two Home Occupation Licenses.* Any home where the applicant is seeking more than two home occupation licenses.
  - (g) *Prohibited Home Occupations.* The following uses, by nature of the occupation, substantially impair the use and value of residentially zoned areas for residential purposes and are, therefore, prohibited:
    - (1) Mortuary, crematorium, columbarium, or mausoleum.

- 
- (2) Animal hospitals or veterinary services.
  - (3) Clinic, dental office, medical office, chiropractic office, or hospital.
  - (4) Junkyard, auto wrecking yard, or salvage yard.
  - (5) Stables, animal kennels, animal day-care, on-site animal training, pet store, commercial animal breeding business, or any other similar activities are prohibited.
    - a. Activities may be allowed within the scope of a hobby license as issued by the Animal Services Division of Sandy City.
    - b. Pet grooming services without on-site kenneling may be allowed to operate in accordance with the standards of this section.
  - (6) Storage, service, repair, or sales of ambulances, tow trucks, recreational vehicles, water craft, automobiles, ATVs, or other motorized vehicles.
  - (7) Fitness or health spa facilities that exceed two clients at a time.
  - (8) Boutiques, sample sale, or craft shows.
  - (9) Auto body repair or motor vehicle repair.
  - (10) Use of specified chemicals, pesticides and flammable/combustible materials, and including any other process or business where current adopted Building and Fire Codes would require an operational permit.
  - (11) Number of vehicular stops or visits that would exceed 24 per day.
  - (12) Massage therapy or other alternative healing and energy healing businesses, with the exception that a home occupation license may be issued if the applicant is the only person employed in said operation and has obtained any required licenses from the State of Utah. Limit one massage therapy or alternative healing and energy healing business per residence. All other standards and Category I qualifications must be complied with. No massage therapy or other alternative healing and energy healing businesses may be permitted if a Category II qualification is required.
  - (13) Bed and breakfast facilities.
  - (14) Parent-child or adult group activities that exceed two clients at a time.
- (Ord. No. 09-18, 7-31-2009; Ord. No. 10-45, 12-14-2010; Ord. No. 12-33, 9-17-2012; Ord. No. 15-25, 7-21-2015; Ord. No. 16-13, 3-23-2016; Ord. No. 17-29, § 1, 12-1-2017; Ord. No. 24-05, § 1(Exh. A), 3-26-2024; Ord. No. 24-14, § 1(Exh. A), 7-30-2024)