



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

BRIGHT FROM THE START: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Nutrition Services

POLICY	No.: CACFP/02-21	Effective Date: 2/15/2002
		Revised: 2/1/2005
		Revision Effective: 2/1/2005

SUBJECT: Use of home-canned and home-frozen foods as they relate to crediting towards the meal pattern

LEGAL AUTHORITY: 7 C.F.R § 226.20(k), Policy Memorandum 226.20-08, O.C.G.A. § 20-1A-5

Cross Reference/See Also:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to discuss the use of home-canned and home-frozen foods by institutions participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) as they relate to crediting towards the meal pattern.

II. APPLIES TO

This policy applies to all institutions participating in the CACFP.

III. DEFINITION(S)

"Institution" means a sponsoring organization, child care center, outside-school-hours care center, emergency shelter, or adult day care center participating in the CACFP. (7 C.F.R. § 226.2). It also includes homeless shelters and "at-risk" after school care programs.

IV. POLICY

Section 226.20-08 of the Code of Federal Regulations prohibits the use of home-canned foods in the CACFP for reimbursement. The use of home-canned foods will increase the likelihood of illness related to clostridium botulinum which can be present in food without evidence of spoilage and can be fatal. Meals served and claimed for reimbursement in the CACFP should not include home-canned foods. The use of home-frozen foods is also prohibited. Meals containing home-frozen foods are not creditable and should not be claimed for reimbursement. All institutions

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participating in the CACFP should ensure that all components of each meal served are stored, prepared, and served in a manner that is in compliance with state and local regulations, standards, and health and safety guidelines. Institutions participating in the CACFP may claim reimbursement for foods prepared fresh, commercially frozen, and commercially canned.

V. PROCEDURE(S)

Institutions participating in the CACFP should review state and local regulations and Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) policies regarding the safe storage, preparation, and serving of food to children and adults to ensure that they are always in compliance with program guidelines.

DECAL will deny reimbursement for any meal containing home-canned or home-frozen food(s). DECAL will also reclaim reimbursement for any meals found to contain home-canned food(s) or home-frozen food(s) during a review or audit of a CACFP participant's records.

VI. COMMENT(S)

Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to the Policy Coordinator at (404) 651-7181.