



Erika's Catering Company

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Top 5 Tips When Considering a CATERER

Next time you plan to entertain, consider hiring a catering company! Keep these tips in mind so that your excitement doesn't cloud your judgment. Ask your friends or relatives for recommendations and prepare a list of questions to ask before calling caterers. Let the caterer know your expectations. Catering is a "service" industry. Be an educated customer, so that in the end, you can party too!

Commercial Kitchen

Commercial kitchens in Orange County are issued a permit to operate by the county health care agency and regularly inspected to insure substantial compliance with California's food safety and sanitation regulations. Preparing food for resale in a home kitchen is illegal in Orange County.

Insurances

A legitimate caterer will have liability insurance and worker compensation insurance for their employees. Insurances are not only for the protection of the caterer but also for the consumer. Remember these are required to do business in Orange County.

Permits and Licenses

A legal catering company will have a seller's permit issued by the California State Board of Equalization and a city business license. Orange County also requires food safety and sanitation training, such as the National Restaurant Association's "ServSafe" program.

Experience/Training

What is the caterer's training and experience in food preparation or catering service industry? How long have they been in the catering business? Do they belong to industry associations or trade groups? Do they stay current with industry education, trends and legislation?

Written Proposal/Contract

Get a written proposal and contract. Once the details have been discussed, be sure the contract clearly spells out what is being provided and all the associated costs. Do not sign anything until you completely understand the terms.

Additional information:

National Restaurant Association
www.restaurant.org

California Restaurant Association
www.calrest.org

Orange County Environmental Health Care Agency
www.ocfoodinfo.com