



**North Dakota Department of Health**

2635 East Main Avenue, P.O. Box 937  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58502-0937

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Chemistry 701-328-6140	Food & Lodging 701-328-6150	Forensic Science 701-328-6159	Medical Examiner 701-328-6138	Toxicology 701-328-6141	Fax Number 701-328-6145
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July 11, 2002

Dear Mr. Rupprecht:

I was recently forwarded a copy of your letter to the department in which you requested information concerning the wearing of shoes in public places. Your request specifically asked if there were laws or regulations in North Dakota that require the wearing of shoes or other footwear in restaurants, retail establishments, libraries, schools, etc. I can only speak to the facilities our division licenses and inspects. The Food and Lodging Division, in addition to several local health departments, have a set of regulations dealing with all types of retail food establishments. Those regulations generally deal with proper attire for the employees of that particular facility. Shoes would be required for employees. I am not aware of any regulations that require the wearing of footwear by customers. That is a decision the management of that particular facility must make. If they want to refuse service to a customer without shoes, that is simply their choice. Informing the public that is required by the Health Department would not be accurate.

I hope this answers your request. If you would have any additional questions or concerns regarding this issue, do not hesitate contacting our office.

Sincerely

Kenan L. Bullinger, Director  
Food and Lodging Division