

■ **PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS (*MIGRANT HOUSING*)**

TERMS: The state public health laws regulate migrant labor camps and residential migrant housing in Florida. In brief, a migrant labor camp is one or more buildings, structures, barracks or dormitories provided to seasonal or migrant farmworkers in connection with their employment and used as their living quarters whether they pay rent or not.

Residential migrant housing is a building, structure, mobile home, barracks or dormitory rented or reserved for use by 5 or more migrant farmworkers, but does not include any single-family residence occupied by a single family, or a hotel or motel furnished for short-term occupancy.

Permits — No one may establish or operate a migrant labor camp or residential migrant housing in Florida without first obtaining a permit to do so, and unless the permit is kept posted in the camp at all times.

Inspection — Before a permit may be issued, a migrant housing facility must be inspected and found in compliance with detailed state rules, which cover these and numerous other factors:

- The suitability of the housing site
- The size, construction and condition of camp structures
- The water system
- The sewage disposal system
- Lighting
- Toilet and bathing facilities
- Laundry facilities
- Food service facilities
- Sleeping accommodations
- Garbage and trash disposal facilities and procedures
- Pest control
- Pesticide use, storage and disposal

ENFORCEMENT: *Migrant Farmworker Housing Program, Environmental Health Division, Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 (850-245-4250).* County health units are also authorized to inspect migrant housing facilities, and to issue permits to qualified applicants.

SPECIAL NOTE: It is illegal for the owner or operator of a migrant labor camp or residential migrant housing facility to retaliate against residents or occupants who make complaints in good faith about housing and sanitary conditions.