

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-75-00

December 21, 2000

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request a formal interpretation of the provisions of section 502.1 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code. My response is limited to the requirements of the State Building Code, which is the only document I am authorized to interpret.

**Question:** "Is a party kitchen which is attached to the main house by a continuous stone and concrete roof structure deemed to be part of the main house and, therefore, one structure or, in the alternative, a separate building requiring its own septic system?"

**Answer:** Section 502.1 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code defines building area as that area which is enclosed by exterior walls; and in areas of the building not provided with exterior walls, as that area included within the horizontal projection of the roof or floor above. In the scenario you present, the party kitchen, being attached to the main house by a roofed portion of the structure, is part of the main house for the purpose of building area. This layout constitutes one building for the purposes of the building code, not two. The State Building Code would therefore not necessarily require a separate septic system for the party kitchen, but would require connection of all drainage piping to an approved sewage disposal system.