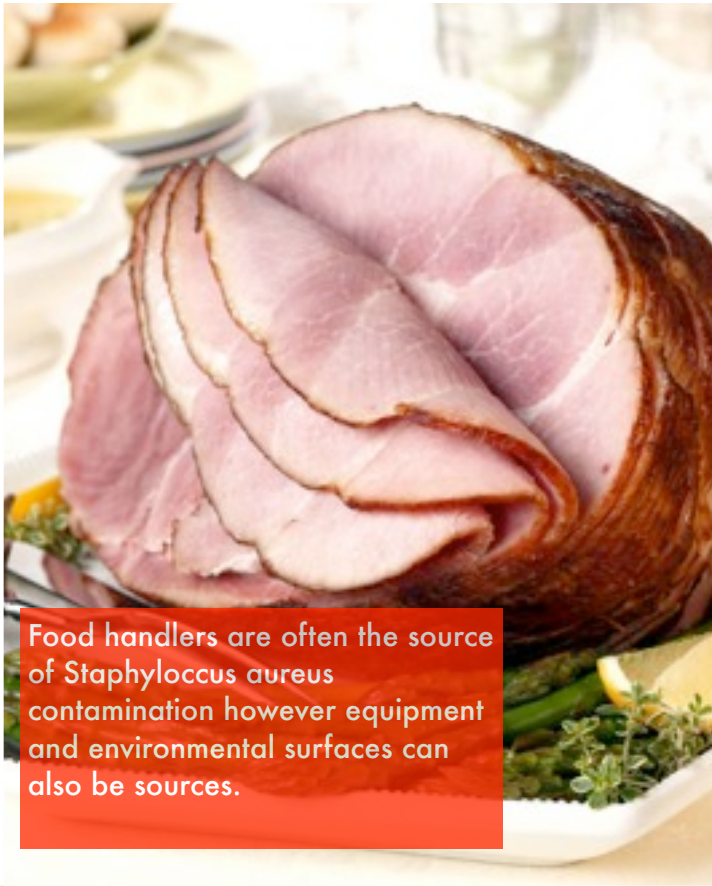


# WRONGFUL DEATH LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST SHELBYVILLE, KY EATERY

## ILLNESS LINKED TO TOXIN IN HAM



Food handlers are often the source of *Staphylococcus aureus* contamination however equipment and environmental surfaces can also be sources.



The lawsuit alleges that ham containing *Staphylococcus aureus* toxin was to blame in the death.

72 year-old David Maupin died two days after dining with his family at the Claudia Sanders Dinner house.



The group was attending an Easter dinner event.



On March 23, 2008, David Maupin, his wife, brother, and sister-in-law all ate Easter dinner at the Claudia Sanders Dinner House in Shelbyville, KY. Two days later, after becoming ill with *Staphylococcus aureus* toxin he died. "It's almost as if there is a tragic event, like a car accident, because you just don't expect to go to your Easter Dinner or whatever and then the next couple of days somebody is gone because of something they ate," said Bob Silverthorn, the Maupin's family Attorney.

### **Staphylococcus aureus**

Baked ham is often linked to *Staphylococcus aureus* outbreaks, usually due to post-baking contamination.

Outbreaks often occur after food has been prepared in bulk and stored for more than 4 hours at ambient temperatures.

To avoid *Staphylococcus aureus* toxin keep hot food above 140°F and cold food below 40°F.

After an investigation by the North Central Public Health Department, it was determined that hams being served that day were contaminated with the *Staphylococcus aureus*.

"It's most likely that someone in the kitchen had some kind of contamination either on themselves or on a cooking utensil of some kind that transferred that contamination to the ham," said Silverthorn. "The hams that were not opened were not contaminated."

Silverthorn said the Claudia Sanders Dinner House is still responsible even if they did not know someone or something in their kitchen was contaminated.

"You know when you do an autopsy, stool sample, death certificate, FDA examination of food products, it all ties this together," said Silverthorn.