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Posters

Is Your Business in compliance?

Workplace Posters

Need More Info? [Click Here!](#)

Florida Notary

NOTARY

Notary Renewals or New Notary Registration

REGISTER NOW!

FLORIDA NOTARY SERVICE.COM

Business Links

- Business Regulation
- Labor & Employment
- Business Registration
- Business Guide
- Form a Corporation

Florida Business

Division of Corporations: Doing Business in Florida™

New Florida Minimum Wage effective January 1st 2012: \$7.67 per hour.
<http://www.dol.gov/dol/topic/wages/minimumwage.htm>

To receive a new Federal All-In-One/Di Poster, please visit the Federal Wage and Labor Law Institute.
<http://www.fwli.com>

S or C Corporation

Register Now →

Limited Liability Company (LLC)

Register Now →

Fictitious Name (DBA)

Register Now →

How to Start a Business in Florida

Thinking about starting a business or need information on how to start a business? Here are the steps to forming a new business in Florida!

1. You will need to think up a name for your new company. A good name should be unique, yet tells what kind of business you are doing.
2. Make a choice on what type of company you want to form. Do you want to:
 - File a DBA (fictitious name) to create a sole proprietorship or partnership?
 - Incorporate as a corporation or LLC (Limited Liability Company)?
3. Whatever you choose, you need to register your company with the state, county and obtain a bank account for the company. You are required to do these steps even if you have an online business or an at home business. For example, if you are doing both sales regularly at a flea market or selling beauty products in an at home party setting you will need to take these steps.

Florida Business License - How to get a business license in Florida

Choosing a DBA Start a Business

1. **Register with the State:** With a DBA/fictitious name you will be able to register the name with the state to conduct business with this name for the entire state. A lot of very small businesses choose this path, or those who are not sure if the company is going to fly and want to start small and work up to incorporating later.
2. **What to Consider if you choose the DBA as your filing:** then name you choose can be used by another company. So the name is not to you alone in Florida. The other thing to consider is that if you file a DBA, there is no limited liability. What this may mean to you is that if someone sued the company, your personal assets would be available in a lawsuit. If this is not a concern then a DBA would be fine.
3. **Legal Notice and Business License:** Once you have the DBA filed with the state, then you will need to do a Legal Notice in a local newspaper, then obtain a business license with your county. A business license/occupational license or business tax receipt is required by most counties in Florida to have the legal ability to do have a business in that county. Check with your local tax collectors office to see what they require.

Choosing to Incorporate a Business

1. **Select a Name:** If you choose to create a Corporation or LLC in Florida the name you choose must be unique. No other company can have the exact same name, so be creative and unique in the naming of your new business.
2. **How to Incorporate a Business?** The first step to incorporating your business is choosing if you want to have an LLC or a corporation. Your accountant, tax preparer or bookkeeper may be the best person to go to help you make this choice. An attorney is also an excellent choice for guidance. The formation of a company is an important decision so having this kind of assistance is very helpful in doing it right the first time.
3. **Articles of Incorporation:** Once you have chosen the type, you would then file the Articles with the Florida Department of State to legally create the entity. You will need a company name, principal address (which must be a physical Florida address) and a mailing address for the company which can be a PO Box if you would like. You will also need the names and addresses of all the owners in the company as the state requires this information. An email address is also necessary to file with the state.
4. **EIN Filing:** Your next step would be obtaining an EIN or Federal Employer Identification Number from the IRS. This is a unique tax ID for your new legal entity and needs to be used with any transactions for the company. Some people choose not to obtain an EIN for the LLC if it is a single member. This means they will have to use their Social Security number instead for all business transactions. All corporations have to obtain and use an EIN.
5. **Business License:** The next step is the business license or occupational license with the county. A business license/occupational license or business tax receipt is required by most counties in Florida to have the legal ability to do have a business in that county. Check with your local tax collectors office to see what they require.
6. **Bank Accounts:** The last step would be a bank account for the new company. You are required to have a bank for the LLC or corporation. All monies coming in and going out must go through the company bank account.

Once you have all these steps in place, either for a DBA/fictitious name or if you want to incorporate as an LLC or a corporation then you are ready to begin your business and are legal in the state of Florida.

Florida Incorporation Service offers the following services:

- Online registration of a DBA including information on the exact wording for the Legal Notice and the link to the counties for the business license. Start here.
- Online registration of a new Florida LLC or corporation, including registration of the EIN on as well as the link to the counties for the business license. Start here.

Assistance | Business Licenses | Company Search | Driving Records for Employers | Labor | Legal | Licensing | News | Opportunities | Permitting | Posters | Purchasing | Real Estate | Registration | Regulation | Statistics | Taxes | Transportation

Business Search:

- **Business Records Search (Sunbiz.org)** - All types of business records
- **Corporation Search** - Fla. Dept. of State; corporations registered in Fla.
- **Company Search** - Non-Corporation, DBA, Sole Proprietors, Fictitious Name
- **Company Lookup (by FEI Number)** - Federal Employer Identification Number Search
- **Employment - Occupational Data Search** - Labor/market analysis
- **Trademark Names - Trademark Owners** - Search by Name
- **Uniform Commercial Code Search** - Debtors, UCC Lien Filings
- **Vendor Search** - Search companies that do business with the state.

Business Registration, Licensing & Permitting:

Registration

- **Division of Corporations** - Registration of corporations & other businesses
- **Corporation Forms (All Types) | Annual Reports | Corporation Annual Reports Online Filing (UBR) | Forms Download (All Types of Forms) | Electronic Filing | Filing Questions | Contacts | Fees | Telephone Numbers & Division Addresses**
- **DBA - Online Filing of Your Fictitious Name** | Application Form | Fictitious Name Registration Instructions and Information
- **Florida Incorporation - FAQs** - Frequently asked questions and answers on forming a corporation in Florida. - Florida Incorporation Service
- **Florida Limited Liability Company (LLC) Information** - File to establish your Florida LLC online | LLC FAQs
- **Florida Tax Guide** - All Types of Florida Taxes: Business, Personal, Non-Profit
- **Florida Department of Revenue** - Business Tax Information
 - Start-up Kit for New Business Owners
 - Go I need to collect sales tax? Find out what is taxable
 - e-Tax Services Online | Tax Contacts & Telephone Numbers
- **New Hire Reporting** | Reporting Form (pdf) - Florida Dept. of Revenue
- **W-4 Form (IRS) (pdf) | I-9 Form (USCIS) (pdf) | E-Verify (Employment Eligibility Verification)** - Automated system to verify the employment authorization of all newly hired employees.
- **IRS** - Tax Information for Businesses | EIN Tax ID Number | IRS Business Start-up Issues | Business Structure, Sub S Corporation Designation
- **Obtaining a Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)**
- **SOOR Securities Registration** - Corporations, sale or offering of securities

Non-Profit Organizations (Nonprofit Information):

- Florida Division of Corporations
- Non-Profit Corporations Registration (Forms by Mail) | Download Forms | Corporations Help & Questions | State Registration of Charitable Organizations | Search Corporation Names, Locate Addresses & Corporate Officers
- Not-for-Profit Organizations (Tax Information)
- IRS (Federal) Non-Profit Organization Tax Information

Licensing

- **Local government business license requirements:**
- **Occupational Licenses** - Contact your city as well as county government for occupational licensing to engage in your specified profession or occupation; Occupational Licensing Tax Information.
- **State Licensing** - Many business categories & professions have additional state licensing or regulatory requirements: [\(Click Here for Examples\)](#).
- **Florida Business Guide** - Starting a new business? Cut the red tape and wasted time. Get the details right the first time so you can concentrate on sales. Order your copy of the **Florida Business Guide** from State of Florida.com today!

Permitting

- **Florida Permits Guide**
 - Building Permits
 - Environmental Permitting
 - Hazardous Waste
 - Health Related Businesses
 - OSPREY One-Stop Permit Registry
 - Water Related Permitting
 - Other Regulated Activities

Employment & Labor, Workforce & Economic Statistics:

- **Employment & Jobs Guide**
 - Information for employers, contacts, links to forms & publications.
 - Labor Laws
 - Labor Market Information
 - Population data by county
 - Unemployment Compensation
 - Workers Compensation
 - Workforce Development
 - Florida Department of Labor & Employment Security
- **Florida Research & Economic Database**
 - Educator Programs, Training Providers
 - Employers, Employer Search
 - Population Data, Income, Census
 - Income & Wages
 - Industry Employment Statistics & Projections
 - Occupations, Employment by Industry
 - Area Profiles, County Level Info
 - Building Permits, Tax Revenues, Property Values, Inflation/Price Index
- **Population Rankings** - Cities/Metro Areas | County Census
- **Business Statistics**
 - Number of businesses formed in Florida:
 - Corporations
 - DBA Companies & Fictitious Names
 - Trademarks
 - Non-Profit
 - Other Statistics
- **Tourism Statistics, Florida Economy Information | Travel Information** - Tourism Facts, Links to visit Florida Travel Assistance
- **More Travel Statistics: Florida Public Records Guide.** We also encourage you to view actual recent Transportation & Tourism News articles which often provide information from a non-marketing point of view, particularly if you are interested in a business perspective.
- **Economy Data - Bureau of Labor Statistics**
 - Florida employment, unemployment, civilian labor force data
- **Economic Overview**
- **Economic & Business Research, Bureau of**
 - Population Studies, Economic Forecasting, Migration & Building Statistics

Transportation:

- Airports
- Mileage Between Cities
- Ports
- Rail Systems
- Transportation Guide (More Transportation Info)

Assistance & Opportunities:

- **Purchasing, Sales, Contracts**
 - State Purchasing | More - Doing Business with the State
 - Purchasing Office Contacts | State Buildings & Facilities
 - Search Bid Opportunities - Florida Vendor Bid System
 - Administrative Weekly - See Section XI for Weekly Notices Regarding Bids, Proposals and Purchasing - Florida Administrative Weekly
- **Business Opportunities (State Regulation of)** - Regulation of the sale or marketing of business opportunities; also regulation of franchises & fundraising opportunities
- **Business opportunities with State of Florida.com**
- **Doing Business with FDOT** - Florida Department of Transportation Purchasing
- **MBE - Minority Business - Office of Supplier Diversity** - One Florida Initiative
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance** - Database of all federal programs and funding sources
- **Federal Government Business Opportunities**
- **Commerce Business Daily (CBD)** - Notices of proposed federal government procurement, contract awards, sales of government property, and other opportunities
- **Health/Medical Research Funding** - National Institutes of Health
- **SBIR - Small Business Innovation Research** - Various federal agencies; competitive research grants

Resources & Assistance

- **Economic Development Offices** - Business site selection, incentives, contacts for one-on-one economic development assistance
- **Chambers of Commerce** - Community and visitor information (Local Offices)
- **Environmental Assistance** - Small Business Program
- **Export Advisor** - Research, Restrictions, Laws, Directory
- **Export Financing Assistance**
- **Financing Assistance & Loans** - FFCFC | SBA Financing
- **International Trade** - World Trade Center, Miami, FL
- **Federal International Assistance**
- **Minority Business Assistance** - Office of Supplier Diversity - One Florida Initiative
- **Real Estate** - Commercial relocation and site services
- **Small Business Development Centers** - Locate your nearest center for business assistance
- **SCORE Offices** - business counseling services locating the expertise of retired executives
- **University Research, Technology, Patents** - Florida Universities
- **Business Plan Outline** - U.S. Dept. of Commerce/NTSA
- **U.S. Small Business Administration**

General Information:

- **Business Records** - Recordkeeping & Retention Guidelines for Businesses - Florida Department of State

Intellectual Property & Legal:

- **Business Law** - Legal statutes for information and resources for Florida businesses
- **Americans with Disabilities Act**
- **Corporate Filings, Trademark Act** or related questions (Florida Department of State)
- **Florida Statutes and Laws (Legal Resources)**
- **Legal Opinions** - Corporations and Businesses (Florida Department of State)
- **LLC Resource Center** - Articles, Matthew & Baker P.A.
- **OSHA** - workplace safety issues
- **Posters Required by Law** - workplace posters
- **Trademark Database Search** (Florida)
- **Copyright Basics**
- **U.S. Patent & Trademark Office**
- **The Florida Bar**

Is Your Business in compliance?

Workplace Posters

Florida Business News

Note: Certain news article links may have expired due to news source posting policies. This information is maintained below for an extended period as an issue archive.

- Once an industry standard, 6 percent fees are fading away as market forces and online services combine to lower the cost of selling a home. sun-sentinel (08/05)
- **Report: Florida business going strong** tampabaybusinessjournal (08/05)
- **Study shows Florida among best for new small businesses** - Fort Lauderdale, Daytona Beach, Melbourne, West Palm Beach, Sarasota, Orlando and Fort Myers all posting growth rates of over 33 percent from 1998-2003. inc.com (12/04)
- **Tax billion in works for state business: Gov. Jeb Bush is proposing almost \$700-million in breaks for companies buying equipment for manufacturing and research and development.** spinnex (12/04)
- **397,980 MORE RESIDENTS:** Florida growth third in nation breitbart.com Herald (12/04)
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Pilot program to support local businesses miamiherald (12/04)
- **State backs electric fee hike...over the next two years to help pay for storm damage** miamiherald Herald (12/04)
- **Stores' refund policy to gain seats in Congress...** Florida to gain miami.com (12/04)
- **SBA Disaster Relief in Aftermath of Summer Hurricanes Tops \$1 Billion** yahoo.com (12/04)
- **Consortium to market area to biotech companies** Miami Today (12/04)
- **Scrapps plans push forward** sun-sentinel (05/04)
- **BALANCING ACT:** Part-time careers help balance moms' miamiherald (05/04)
- **Techno-homes business potential** - Florida's first statewide conference on technology transfer in St. Petersburg spinnex (05/04)
- **Struggling shrimp processors consider options** - Florida shrimpers urging Floridians to buy state shrimp miamiherald (05/04)
- **For Floridians, the tax burden is less of one's spinnex (04/04)**
- **Sudden oak disease hits state** jacksonville.com (04/04)
- **Yacht Web Site Allowed To Draw From Other Site** tampabay.com (04/04)
- **Gas price hike may be driven off** - Advocates say state gas price controls keep prices high and should be repealed sun-sentinel (04/04)
- **Gas-tax holiday plan on the table** news-jacksonville.com (04/04)
- **Florida nurseries find California oak killer...**The deadly organism turned up in Tallahassee and the Jacksonville area sun-sentinel (04/04)
- **Jacksonville companies see increased activity** jacksonville.com (04/04)
- **TRADE:** FTAA '05 deadline in jeopardy miamiherald (04/04)
- **Boat show attendance, sales increase** palmbeachpost (04/04)
- **Deal has 2 firms splitting Eckerd...**The store name, a Florida presence for decades spinnex (04/04)
- **Small-Town Allure Snarcs High-Skill Jobs...**Lakeland, Polk County tampabay.com (03/04)
- **Competing with the Corporate Giants...**being an independent gas station owner spinnex (03/04)
- **Plans to reduce gas prices being refined** spinnex (03/04)
- **Coast Dental Plans To Deist Shares From Nasdaq** tampabay.com (03/04)
- **Want a good board? Prepare to pay...**As regulators tighten their watch over boards, companies boost fees to make up for waning demand. spinnex (03/04)
- **RESEARCH:** University scientists await influx of venture capitalists. Scrapps Research Institute coming to South Florida produces a huge new interest in biotech. miamiherald (03/04)
- **Scrapps officials say** research complex should be self-sustaining in 7 years sun-sentinel (03/04)
- **Palm Beach Boat Show opens with better-than-expected turnout** sun-sentinel (03/04)
- **Tampa Company Rides Wave Of Net Auctions** tampabay.com (02/04)
- **Customer Satisfaction is at its highest level in nine years, and researchers say that could mean more spending ahead.** spinnex (02/04)
- **Jacksonville has much to do to attract young, creative workers.** It seems to be heading in the right direction. jacksonville.com (02/04)
- **Residential construction activity slows in January** news-jacksonville.com (02/04)
- **Tyco includes Boca's AOT in plan for layoffs, job shifts to overseas** sun-sentinel (02/04)
- **MEDICINE:** 90-day ban on cosmetic procedure miamiherald (02/04)
- **Computer sales boost HSN results** spinnex (02/04)
- **Florida growers happy as Australian sugar left out of free-trade pact** sun-sentinel (02/04)
- **S. Florida restaurants beef up their low-carb menus** sun-sentinel (02/04)
- **Tide of bookings lifts cruise lines** sun-sentinel (02/04)
- **Who's in, who's out among area's top business leaders** spinnex (01/04)
- **Perks That Work** tampabay.com (01/04)
- **Gov. Bush proposes \$55.4 billion budget for 2004-05** sun-sentinel (01/04)
- **Program aims for synergy between business, arts** miamiherald (01/04)

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