

The Launchpad: Operations and Planning: Business Requirements

Business Requirements

Starting a Business In General

Your business is unique. Your business must meet all laws and all professional, business, tax, and location requirements imposed by your local, state, and federal government. Asking a lot of questions and doing research will uncover the regulations your business needs to meet. Many requirements are addressed here to get you started:

Ohio Resources

Ohio.gov|Business
<http://business.ohio.gov/>

Starting a business in Ohio
<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/Businesses/BusinessInformation/starting.aspx>

Cleveland Business Essentials
<http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/CityofCleveland/Home/Business>

Business Name

If you are not doing business under your own name, you need to give your business a Fictitious Business Name (FBN). This name will depend on your business intent and existing names on record with your state. This name will be restricted by trademarks, domain name availability, and cultural considerations. See *Choosing a Name* and *Branding*. You may want to protect this name through the trademarking process. See *Intellectual Property*.

Federal - Uspto.gov

State Trademarks and FBN - <http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/Businesses.aspx>

<http://blogs.wsj.com/independentstreet/2008/06/05/how-to-choose-a-company-name-a-12-point-test/>

<http://www.entrepreneur.com/startingabusiness/startupbasics/namingyourbusiness/article21774.html>

Business License

You can take many steps to set up a business before you are required to get a business license. Before you begin doing business, you will need a business license to do business in the county in which your business is located. Either your city or county will issue business licenses. The government records you as owning the business and will need things such as identifying documents, a unique FBN, and a fee. Many municipalities require public notice of your FBN through a single or multiple newspaper postings. This business license fee is a tax you will pay initially and whenever you renew your license. This fee may be based on the size, type, or revenue of your business.

Business licenses, permits, and business names

http://www.myownbusiness.org/business_permits_license/

State Licensing - <http://business.ohio.gov/licensing/>

Business Entity Formation

If your business is arranged in a way other than a sole proprietorship, you will need to file additional applications with the state or federal government. See our brochure *Business Entities*. If you are a sole proprietor you will use your social security number to fill out forms in place of the EIN (Federal Employee Identification Number issued to LLCs and corporations).

EIN -<https://sa2.www4.irs.gov/modiein/individual/index.jsp>

Additional Information

<http://www.sos.state.oh.us/SOS/Businesses.aspx>

Business Type Requirements

A license may be required based on the type of business. For example, a restaurant with a full bar would require a liquor license, salons must meet health codes, and manufacturing plants and must meet Occupational Health and Safety (OSHA) standards.

If you run a medical facility, it is your responsibility to make sure your doctors are all licensed. Legal work must be done by a member of the bar or under a lawyer's supervision. Aestheticians likely need to be licensed by the city or county. Civil engineers are licensed by a national organization. Some importers need licenses. Learn the requirements for the type of business you are trying to run.

- **Cleveland**
<http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us/CityofCleveland/Home/Government/CityAgencies/Finance/AssessmentsandLicenses>
- **Lorain County**
<http://www.loraincountychamber.com/membership/>
- **Medina**
http://www.medinaohchamber.com/Get_Involved/Business-Start-Information
- **Huron**
<http://www.huroncountychamber.com/Resources/>
- **Erie**
<http://www.eriecounty.oh.gov/resources/business-resources/>
- **Summit**
<http://www.co.summit.oh.us/>
<http://www.akronsbdc.org/>
- **Cuyahoga**
<http://cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/business.aspx>
- **Portage**
<http://www.co.portage.oh.us/index.html>

PDFs

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