

LLC Formation Guide

Everything you need to start your business the right way.

Step 1: Choose Your Business Name

Must be unique in your state. Include "LLC" or "Limited Liability Company". Check availability on your state website.

Step 2: Select Your State

Most people file in their home state. Delaware and Wyoming offer privacy benefits. Consider state taxes and fees.

Step 3: Designate a Registered Agent

Can be yourself or a service. Must have physical address in state and be available during business hours.

Step 4: File Articles of Organization

File with Secretary of State. Fees range from \$50-\$500. Processing time varies by state.

Step 5: Create Operating Agreement

Required in some states. Defines ownership and management. Protects your liability protection.

Step 6: Get Your EIN

Apply free at IRS.gov. Takes 5 minutes online. Needed for bank accounts and taxes.

Step 7: Open Business Bank Account

Keep business and personal separate. Need EIN and formation docs. Shop for best fees.

Step 8: Get Licenses and Permits

Business license from city/county. Professional licenses if required. Sales tax permit if selling products.