

JON HUSTED

Ohio Secretary of State



Jon Husted

Office Duties & Responsibilities

- Business Services
- Elections





Business Services

Registering and
Maintaining
a Business in Ohio



your
BUSINESS
begins here

In Ohio, Business Starts with the Secretary of State

We:

- Process business filings & uniform commercial code filings
- Protect trademarks & service marks
- Provide record certifications
- Compile business reports
- Operate a Client Service Center & Customer Service Call Center



Create Your Business Profile Information Card

4.25in x 11in Double-Sided Card

Ohio Business Central your BUSINESS begins here

Start and Manage
Your Business Online

WWW.OHBUSINESSCENTRAL.COM

Get Your Business Started Today

LOG IN | CREATE YOUR PROFILE

1. Go to www.OHBusinessCentral.com.
2. Click **Log In | Create Profile** on the left side of the screen.
3. Select **Click Here To Create Profile** on the bottom right of the screen.
4. Complete fields.
5. Click **Create Profile**.
6. **Print** confirmation page then click **Continue to Filing**.
7. Enter your e-signature in the field provided and click **Login**

PROCESS FILING

8. Select **File a New Business or Register Name** from the left hand navigation or from the options in the center.
9. Follow the prompts and enter the requested information.
10. Review and verify the filing.
11. Pay for the filing with a credit or debit card to submit the filing.

JON HUSTED
Ohio Secretary of State

180 E. Broad St. • Columbus, OH 43215
(877) SOS-FILE (877-767-3453) ext. 1 • (614) 466-3910

Ohio Business Road Map

TAKE THE NEXT STEP
Your guide to starting a new business.

- Register with the Ohio Secretary of State.
- Contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN).
- Open a Bank Account.
- Contact the Ohio Department of Taxation.
- Report Newly Hired and Re-Hired Employees to the Ohio New Hire Reporting Center.
- Contact the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.
- Contact the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services.
- Obtain the proper licenses and permits.

MyOhioBiz Online Business Resources
Powered by Google

With the newly formed Google partnership, business filing fee cut and Ohio Business Central it's easy to start your business.

Visit www.MyOhioBiz.com and check out these tools to help build and grow your business.

GET YOUR BUSINESS REGISTERED ON Google

- JOIN THE GOOGLE SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY
- WATCH THE SMALL BUSINESS VIDEO SERIES
- BUILD A FREE WEBSITE

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Starting a Business in Ohio Checklist

8.5in x 11in Double-Sided Flyer



QUICK-START FOR YOUR BUSINESS ENTITY

DOING OUR PART TO REBUILD OHIO'S ECONOMY

your **BUSINESS** begins here



Starting a business entity in Ohio involves taking many steps, working with different federal and state agencies along the way. However, the first step for many of those starting a business is to file with the Secretary of State's Office. This quick-start guide is one of many publications my office provides for Ohio entrepreneurs. For more information on starting a business or nonprofit organization, visit www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov. You can also access Ohio Business Central and take the first step to starting your business by filing online.

Thank you for choosing the Buckeye State as the place to start your business or organization. I appreciate your dedication to what you do and wish you every success in the future.



Sincerely,

Jon Husted, Ohio Secretary of State

As the place where business begins in Ohio, the Ohio Secretary of State's Office has launched **Ohio Business Profile** to highlight some of the great work being done in the Buckeye State. Each month a handful of diverse businesses with a common theme will be selected to be featured on our website. If you are interested in having your business profiled go to www.OhioBusinessProfile.com

JON HUSTED
OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE
BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION

JON HUSTED
Ohio Secretary of State



HELPFUL STEPS AS YOU FURTHER DEVELOP YOUR BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION

- 1. Register with the Ohio Secretary of State.**
Register online or find the forms needed to file for your business at www.OhioBusinessCentral.com.
- 2. Contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN).**
Additional information and an online application are available at www.irs.gov - search "EIN."
- 3. Then, open a bank account.**
You will need your EIN to open a bank account.
- 4. Contact the Ohio Department of Taxation.**
Register with the Ohio Department of Taxation at www.tax.ohio.gov. The Ohio Department of Taxation can assist businesses in determining state and local tax obligations.
- 5. Report newly hired and re-hired employees to the Ohio New Hire Reporting Center.**
Report employee information at www.newhire-reporting.com/oh-newhire. More information can be obtained by contacting the Ohio New Hire Reporting Center at (888) 872-1490.
- 6. Contact the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.**
If your business or organization has an employee or employees visit www.bwc.ohio.gov under "Employees."
- 7. Contact the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services.**
Employers may be required to establish an unemployment Compensation Tax Account with the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services. Visit www.js.ohio.gov search "Employees."
- 8. Finally, obtain the proper licenses and permits.**
The Ohio Business Gateway, www.business.ohio.gov, Licenses and Permits page provides a list of professional licenses and business permits necessary to do business in Ohio. Contact your county and local government to determine if any special requirements exist for your type of business.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- Apply for tax exemption.**
Visit www.irs.gov to apply to become a tax-exempt organization. Also, contact the Ohio Department of Taxation and your county and local governments to determine how to apply for applicable exemptions.
- Register with the Ohio Attorney General's Office if entity is a charitable organization.**
Ohio requires charitable organizations located in Ohio and groups that are required to contribute to register and file annual reports. Please go to www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov for more information.
- Apply for a nonprofit postal permit.**
Apply for a nonprofit mailing permit from the United States Postal Service at www.usps.com.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this document is not legal or accounting advice. You should consult a legal or accounting professional.

File online or find more information at www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov
Mail filings to: Business Services
180 East Broad Street, 16th floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Telephone: (614) 466-3910 - Toll Free: (877) SOS-FILE (877-767-3453)
E-mail: busserv@OhioSecretaryofState.gov



JON HUSTED
OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE

Walk-in Client Service Center
180 East Broad Street, Suite 103 (ground floor), Columbus, Ohio 43215



JON HUSTED
Ohio Secretary of State



Ohio Business Forward Existing Businesses

8.5in x 11in Double-Sided Flyer

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Ohio Secretary of State



Ohio Business Forward

SERVICES FOR EXISTING OHIO BUSINESS OWNERS

Dear Ohio Business Owner,

We are working to make Ohio the best place to do business. That means ensuring you have a positive first interaction with the State of Ohio when you register and throughout the life of your business.

Ohio's economic well-being is directly tied to the success of your company and the hundreds of thousands of others that call Ohio home. We want your focus to be on growing your company, not on government bureaucracy and so we provide a number of services to assist you, just a few of which are highlighted here.

For more information about your business filing or any of the following programs, please visit www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov, or contact my office at (877) 767-3453.

I wish you continued success in your entrepreneurial endeavors and look forward to working with you in the future.



Jon Husted
Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State

SEVEN YEARS OF RECORD FILINGS



Year	New Business Filings
2010	46,679
2011	52,481
2012	58,806
2013	65,758
2014	73,718
2015	81,748
2016	87,748

20.8% INCREASE FROM 2010 TO 2016

BUSINESS SERVICES @ BUSINESS SPEED

You can now file the most frequently used forms online. Visit www.OHBusinessCentral.com today.



STAY CONNECTED

E-mail
If you would like to receive useful updates on business services from the Secretary of State's office, sign up to receive future e-mail notifications online at www.OHBusinessCentral.com.

Social Media
Follow [OhioSOSHusted](#) and stay informed on important updates and events as they happen.





JON HUSTED
Ohio Secretary of State



Ohio Business Forward

BUSINESS FILING NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Protect Your Business From Identity Theft

Business identity theft, or corporate or commercial identity theft, happens when a business's identity is illegally used to transact business and establish lines of credit with banks and/or vendors. Similar to individual victims, businesses and those people associated with an enterprise can face potentially ruinous consequences.

To help Ohio businesses protect their identities, the Secretary of State's office has launched the Business Filing Notification System, a free service allowing businesses to track any filing changes or updates. Once subscribed to the filing notification system, a business will receive an e-mail the day after any document is filed with the Secretary of State. To sign up for the filing notification system, visit www.OHBusinessCentral.com.

RECOGNIZING YOUR BUSINESS



www.OhioBusinessProfile.com is a monthly web feature highlighting a number of Ohio businesses in a common industry or sector. Businesses are selected to provide a diverse geographic, industrial and size representation. Profiles are created based on information provided by each business. To submit your business for consideration, visit www.OhioBusinessProfile.com and click on "Submit Your Business Profile."

Additionally, if your business has an upcoming milestone (anniversary, major accomplishment, expansion, etc.), you may request a commendation from our office to honor your event. If you would like to request a commendation, or are interested in a possible site visit from Secretary Husted, call (877) 767-3453.

ONLINE RESOURCES

For more information or to request these materials, call (877) 767-3453



Ohio Business Profile Widget

Links to online profiles of existing Ohio businesses.

Graphic Inserts

The following graphics are available for newsletters, magazines, or any print and /or electronic correspondence.

Ohio Business Central Widget

Start and manage business filings online for the first time in Ohio.

303-0314-03/2016

JON HUSTED
Ohio Secretary of State



Your Guide To: Starting a Corporation in Ohio

5.5in x 8.5in Booklet

your guide to

Jon Husted
Ohio Secretary of State

Starting a Corporation in Ohio



YOUR BUSINESS begins here

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Ohio Secretary of State



Ohio Secretary of State
Business Services Division

Office of the Ohio Secretary of State

Preface

This guide has been prepared for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. It is recommended that you seek legal and tax counsel before acting upon this information.

Personal Information

The Secretary of State's Office has the authority to reject any document containing a Social Security number or federal tax identification number. Please remove all personal information from documents prior to filing them.

Forms

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 1701.04, the Secretary of State's Office authorizes for-profit corporations to conduct business in Ohio. Documents must be filed with the Secretary of State's Office **before** a corporation may legally conduct business in Ohio and, under certain circumstances, for the corporation to continue conducting business. All forms that are required to be filed with the Secretary of State, including, but not limited to, Articles of Incorporation, Statutory Agent Updates, Amendments, Conversions, Mergers and Dissolutions, can be obtained directly from the Secretary of State's Office.

Some forms may be filed online at the Secretary of State's Ohio Business Central website at www.OHBusinessCentral.com. For more information, or to obtain other filing forms, visit the Ohio Secretary of State's website at www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov and click on "Businesses." You may also request forms be sent to you via fax or regular mail by calling (877) 905-FILE (877-767-3453). The filing fee associated with each filing, as well as completion instructions, are provided on each form.

Forming a For-Profit Corporation

Ohio Revised Code Section 1701.04 provides that "anyone, singly or jointly with others, and without regard to residence, domicile, or state of incorporation," may form an Ohio corporation. All corporations must obtain a license from the Ohio Secretary of State to lawfully conduct business in Ohio.

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Guide to Starting a Corporation in Ohio

Filing Articles of Incorporation

A corporation must file Original Articles of Incorporation ("Articles") with the Ohio Secretary of State before it transacts business in Ohio.

The Articles **must** include the following:

1. The name of the corporation, which must include one of the following: "Company," "Co.," "Corporation," "Corp.," "Incorporated," or "Inc."
2. The location of the corporation's principal office.
3. The authorized number of shares of stock, along with their classification and par value, if any.
4. If the corporation is to have initial stated capital, the amount of that stated capital.
5. An original appointment and acceptance of statutory agent.

The Articles **may** also set forth any of the following provisions:

1. The names of individuals who are to serve as initial directors.
2. The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is formed; or, if no purpose is given, the purpose of the corporation is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which a corporation may be formed.
3. Any provision that may be set forth in the corporation's regulations.
4. A provision specifying the period of existence; or, if none is given, the period of existence is perpetual.
5. The effective date of organization of the corporation, if other than the filing date.

The corporation's legal existence begins upon filing the Articles with the Secretary of State or upon a later date specified in the Articles. The effective date must be the date of filing or a future date and cannot be more than 90 days from the date of filing with the Secretary of State. If the effective date provided has already passed or exceeds the date of filing by more than 90 days, the effective date of organization will be the date of filing (i.e., the date the filing is received by the Secretary of State).

Please note: A corporation's regulations, bylaws and other internal documents are not required to be filed with the Ohio Secretary of State's Office.

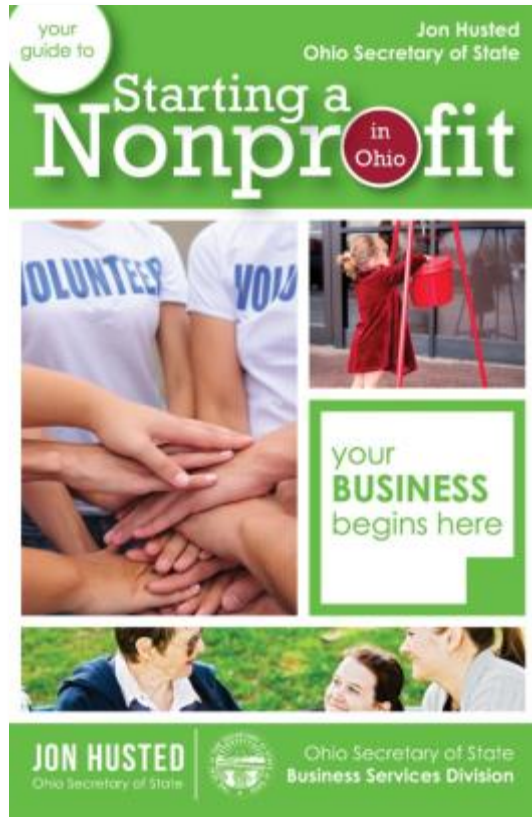
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JON HUSTED
Ohio Secretary of State



Your Guide To: Starting a Nonprofit in Ohio

5.5in x 8.5in Booklet



Office of the Ohio Secretary of State

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What is a Nonprofit Organization?

A nonprofit organization is formed for charitable, educational, religious, scientific, community development or other socially beneficial purposes. While nonprofit corporations are the most popular form of organization for nonprofit activities, unincorporated associations or trusts are also options to consider. The choice of entity may be necessitated by factors such as the longevity of the endeavor, the planned activities, the need to own or lease facilities and the need to hire staff.

Many people prefer to form a nonprofit corporation, in part, because of the liability protection a corporation provides. For example, if a nonprofit corporation is sued, the assets of its owners are generally protected because corporate assets are distinct from personal assets. Incorporating should therefore be considered if the organization will acquire assets such as buildings, equipment, or vehicles to be used in the delivery of services, or if it will be necessary to hire employees. Ultimately, your nonprofit organization may wish to consult an attorney and/or tax professional before deciding which nonprofit classification is best suited for your organization.

Documenting an Unincorporated Association

Ohio law recognizes unincorporated associations. Unincorporated associations still require organizational documents, known as constitutions, in order for the organization to be created. Additionally,

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Guide to Starting a Nonprofit in Ohio

such an organization usually has bylaws, which may set forth matters such as:

- Rules and regulations for the organization's operation.
- The method of adopting or amending the constitution and bylaws.
- The method of electing officers.
- The powers and duties of the officers and trustees.
- The rights of members.

Special attention should be given to the statement of purpose in the organization's constitution. The purpose may be critical in qualifying the organization for tax exemption or in meeting standards for funding. Defining the qualifications of members and directors is also important.

An unincorporated nonprofit association may legally conduct business in the state of Ohio without filing forms with the Secretary of State. However, unincorporated nonprofit associations may submit a statement appointing an agent authorized to receive service of process if they desire, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 1745.13.

This statement provides the name of the unincorporated nonprofit association and the name and address in this state of the agent. In addition to a statement that appoints an agent, unincorporated nonprofit associations may revoke the appointment of an agent and appoint a new agent, and the agent may resign the appointment. Each of these actions can be completed by filing an Agent Notification Form for Unincorporated Nonprofit Associations (Form 580).

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 1745.51, if a statement of an unincorporated nonprofit association is on file with the Secretary of State, then upon adopting a voluntary resolution of dissolution, a copy of the written notice of dissolution must be filed with the Secretary of State. Ohio Revised Code Section 1745.55 requires a judicially dissolved unincorporated nonprofit association to file a certified copy of the order or judgment dissolving the association to be filed with the Secretary of State, if the association previously filed with the office. Both of these filings can be made by using the Notice of Dissolution for Unincorporated Nonprofit Associations (Form 581).

The filing fee for both the Agent Notification Form and the Notice of Dissolution is \$25.00, payable to "Ohio Secretary of State," and these

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Your Guide To: Starting a Limited Liability Corporation in Ohio

5.5in x 8.5in Booklet

your guide to **Jon Husted**
Ohio Secretary of State

Starting a Limited Liability Company

in Ohio



your BUSINESS begins here



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Ohio Secretary of State



Ohio Secretary of State
Business Services Division

Office of the Ohio Secretary of State: Guide to Starting a Limited Liability Company in Ohio

Preface

This guide has been prepared for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. It is recommended that you seek legal and tax counsel before acting upon this information.

Personal Information

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What is a Limited Liability Company?

A limited liability company (LLC) is a business entity which combines elements of partnership and corporate structures, and may be formed in Ohio for a profit or nonprofit purpose.

Many people decide to form a limited liability company because this business type is typically more flexible than a corporation and it is well-suited for companies with only one owner. Although owners have limited liability, this does not mean they are fully protected from personal liabilities. For example, if a limited liability company is sued, generally the assets of the owners are protected because the business assets are distinct from the personal assets, but there are exceptions under certain circumstances.

Ultimately, you may wish to consult an attorney and/or tax professional before deciding which entity type is best for your company.

Forms

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 1705.04, the Secretary of State's Office authorizes limited liability companies to conduct business in Ohio. Documents must be filed with the Secretary of State's Office before a limited liability company may legally conduct business in Ohio. All forms that are required to be filed with the Secretary of State, including, but not limited to, Articles of Organization, Statutory Agent Updates, Amendments, Conversions, Mergers and Dissolutions, can be obtained directly from the Secretary of State's Office.

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Office of the Ohio Secretary of State: Guide to Starting a Limited Liability Company in Ohio

Some forms, including the Articles of Organization to Form a Limited Liability Company (Form 533A), may be filed online at the Secretary of State's Ohio Business Central website at www.OHBusinessCentral.com. For more information, or to obtain other filing forms, visit the Ohio Secretary of State's website at www.OHioSecretaryofState.gov and click on "Businesses." You may also request forms be sent to you via fax or regular mail by calling (877) SOS-FILE (877-767-3453). The filing fee associated with each filing, as well as completion instructions, are provided on each form.

Forming a Limited Liability Company

Ohio Revised Code Section 1705.04 provides that "one or more persons, without regard to residence, domicile, or state of organization, may form a limited liability company." All limited liability companies must register with the Ohio Secretary of State to lawfully conduct business in Ohio.

Filing Articles of Organization

In order to be legally organized, a limited liability company must file Articles of Organization (Articles) with the Ohio Secretary of State. Ohio Revised Code Section 1705.04 provides a list of the information that must be included.

The Articles must include the following:

1. The name of the company, which must include one of the following: "limited liability company," "LLC," "L.L.C.," "ltd.," "ltd.," or "limited."
2. The period of its duration, but if the Articles or operating agreement do not set forth the period of the duration of the company, its duration is perpetual.
3. Any other provisions that are from the operating agreement or that are not inconsistent with applicable law and that the members elect to set out in the Articles for the regulation of the affairs of the company.
4. An original appointment and acceptance of statutory agent.

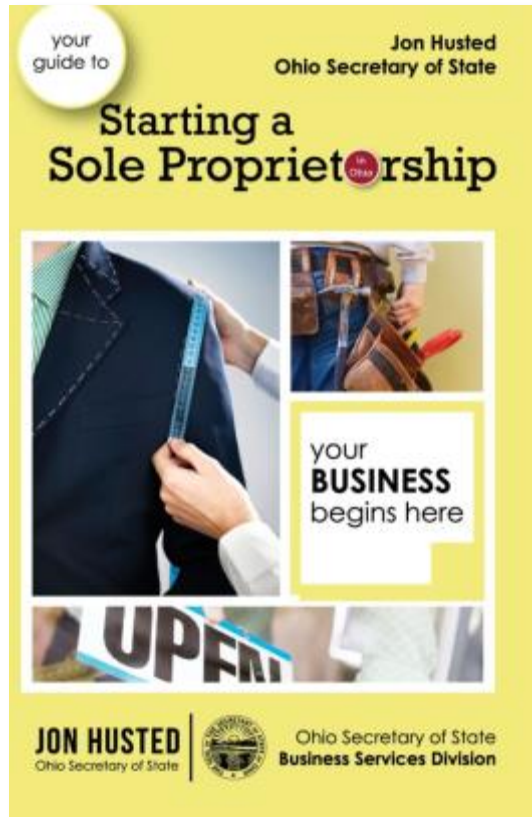
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Ohio Secretary of State



Your Guide To: Starting a Sole Proprietorship in Ohio

5.5in x 8.5in Booklet



Office of the Ohio Secretary of State

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What Is a Sole Proprietorship?

A sole proprietorship is a business entity in which there is a single owner entirely responsible for business decisions and liabilities. There is no legal distinction between the business and the owner. All business profits, losses and assets are the personal profits, losses and assets of the owner.

Many people decide to form a sole proprietorship due to the ease of creation and function. The owner is the sole decision maker and does not share the profits. In addition, the profits are taxed as personal income and are not subject to a corporate tax. However, owners of sole proprietorships have unlimited liability with regard to the debts and obligations of the business. Personal assets of the owner are at risk if the liabilities of the sole proprietorship exceed its assets.

Ultimately, you may wish to consult an attorney and/or tax professional before deciding which type of entity is best for your business.

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Guide to Starting a Sole Proprietorship in Ohio

Forms

Sole proprietorships are not required to file paperwork with the Secretary of State in order to conduct business in the State of Ohio. However, if a sole proprietorship wishes to do business under a name different from that of the sole proprietor (personal name, i.e. Bob Smith), they must register a trade name or report the use of a fictitious name with the Secretary of State's Office.

Registering Name of a Sole Proprietorship

Sole proprietors may conduct business under their own name, a trade name or a fictitious name.

Trade Name

A sole proprietor doing business under a name other than their own may register a trade name with the Secretary of State. Trade names give the owner exclusive right to use that name and are protected from use by others. Ohio Revised Code Section 1329.01(B) requires that an application for a trade name contain:

1. The name and business address of the applicant.
2. The trade name to be registered.
3. The general nature of the business conducted by the applicant.
4. The length of time during which the trade name has been used by the applicant in business operations in the state. (The date of first use must be prior to the date the application is submitted to the Secretary of State).

Fictitious Name

If a person plans to conduct business under a name other than their own and does not plan to register a trade name, or if the preferred name is unavailable for registration, they must notify the Secretary of State of their plan to use the business name, according to Revised Code section 1329.01(D). This involves filing out a form stating:

1. The name and business address of the user.
2. The fictitious name being used.

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Ohio Secretary of State



Your Guide To: Starting a Partnership in Ohio

5.5in x 8.5in Booklet



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1

Guide to Starting a Partnership in Ohio

General Partnerships

What is a General Partnership?

A general partnership is an association of two or more persons to carry on as co-owners of a business for-profit.

Many people decide to form a partnership because this business type allows for a pooling of owner assets, both monetary and skill sets. Owners have unlimited personal liability for all debts of the partnership. Unless there is an agreement stating otherwise, any partner may bind the partnership to an agreement with a third party. Even in the case of an agreement stating otherwise, a partner's actions may still be binding upon the partnership.

Ultimately, you may wish to consult an attorney and/or tax professional before deciding which entity type is best for your company.

Forms

Partnerships may legally conduct business in the state of Ohio without filing forms with the Secretary of State. However, partnerships may submit filings if they desire. All forms that may be filed with the Secretary of State, including, but not limited to, Statements of Partnership Authority, Statutory Agent Updates, Amendments, Cancellations of Partnership, Dissociations and Dissolutions, can be obtained directly from the Secretary of State's Office.

For more information, or to obtain filing forms, visit the Ohio Secretary of State's website at www.OhioSecretaryofState.gov and click on "Businesses." You may also request forms be sent to you via fax or regular mail by calling (877) SOS-FILE (877-767-3453). The filing fee associated with each filing, as well as completion instructions, are provided on each form. Some forms may be filed online at the Secretary of State's Ohio Business Central website at www.OHBusinessCentral.com.

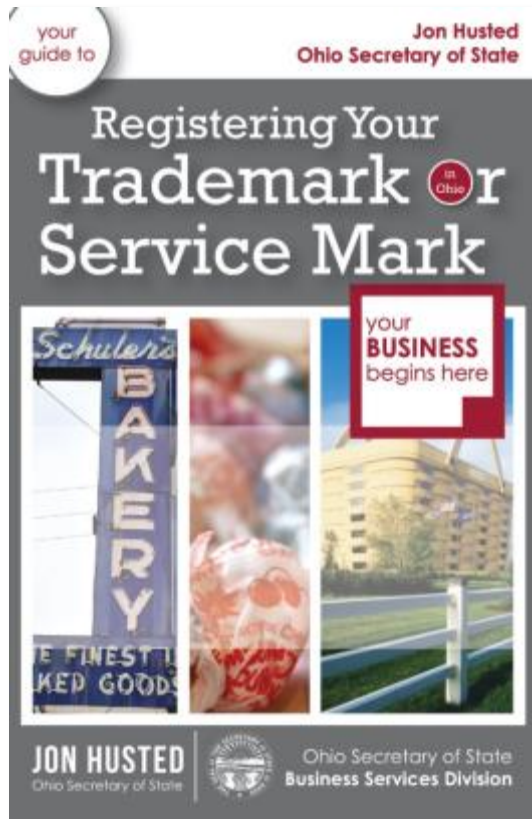
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JON HUSTED
Ohio Secretary of State



Your Guide To: Registering Your Trademark or Service Mark in Ohio

5.5in x 8.5in Booklet



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Personal Information

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What is a Trademark?

A trademark is defined by Ohio Revised Code Section 1329.54(A) as "any word, name, symbol, device, or combination of any word, name, symbol, or device, that is adopted and used by a person to identify and distinguish the goods of that person, including a unique product, from the goods of other persons, and to indicate the source of the goods, even if that source is unknown."

What is a Service Mark?

A service mark is defined by Ohio Revised Code Section 1329.54(B) as "any word, name, symbol, device, or combination of any word, name, symbol, or device, that is adopted and used by a person to identify and distinguish the services of that person, including a unique service, from the services of other persons and to indicate the source of the services, even if that source is unknown."

While a mark may meet either of these definitions, there are several restrictions on the registration of trademarks and service marks to consider before registering a mark.

Why File Your Trademark/Service Mark in Ohio

Registration of a trademark or service mark provides two things. First, it provides actual public notice. By registering the mark with a central filing agency, the mark is available for public scrutiny. This benefits both the owner, who seeks exclusive use of the mark and a potential filer who seeks to ensure that his or her mark does not conflict with a mark already in use. Second, registration of a mark might be used as evidence in the event an infringement claim is pursued by the registrant.

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Guide to Registering Your Trademark or Service Mark in Ohio

Limitations on Registration Pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 1329.55, if your mark consists of or comprises any one or more of the following, it cannot be accepted for filing:

1. Immoral, deceptive or scandalous matter;
2. Matter that may disparage or falsely suggest a connection with persons living or dead, institutions, beliefs or national symbols, or bring them into contempt or disrepute;
3. The flag or coat of arms or other insignia of the United States, or of any state or municipality, or of any foreign nation or any simulation thereof;
4. The name, signature or portrait of any living individual, except with his/her written consent;
5. A mark which, when applied to the goods or services, is "merely descriptive," "deceptively misdescriptive" or primarily geographically descriptive (See following section for more information regarding merely descriptive and deceptively misdescriptive marks);
6. A mark that is primarily merely a surname;
7. A mark that resembles a trademark or service mark previously used in the state of Ohio by another entity and is not abandoned, and is likely to cause confusion, mistake or is deceptive; or
8. A mark that resembles a mark registered in the U.S. Patent Office by another entity and is not abandoned, and which is likely to cause confusion, mistake or is deceptive.

Please note: Proof of secondary meaning (discussed hereafter) will permit only a trademark or service mark that is descriptive, deceptively misdescriptive, geographically descriptive or a surname to be registered.

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Ohio Secretary of State

