**Checklist for Licensing a New Business in Arkansas**

- File a Doing Business As (DBA) Certificate at the County Clerk’s Office
- File your business entity with the Arkansas Secretary of State at [www.ark.org/sos/sfs/docs/index.php](http://www.ark.org/sos/sfs/docs/index.php)
- Register for Arkansas state taxes with the Arkansas Dept. of Finance and Administration’s Arkansas Taxpayer Access Point (ATAP) at [https://atap.arkansas.gov/](https://atap.arkansas.gov/)
- Have your Commercial Personal Property Assessed at the County Assessor’s Office
- Obtain a Business License from the City Clerk’s Office
- Obtain any additional licenses and permits from county and state offices

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**Establishing Your Business in Arkansas**

Before opening your business to the public, you must meet certain regulatory requirements. These requirements are based on laws written to protect business owners, their employees and their customers. This brochure provides a basic outline of regulatory requirements you must complete to open a business in Arkansas.

This overview includes local, state and federal regulatory, tax and insurance requirements. While we have made every effort to include relevant information, some cities and counties may have different or additional requirements. It is your responsibility to make sure your business complies with local, state and federal government regulatory requirements — we strongly suggest that you consult with your city and county clerk’s offices for more information.

**Regulatory Requirements**

**Doing Business As Certificate (DBA)**

To register a new business in Arkansas, you must first file a Doing Business As Certificate (DBA) with your County Clerk’s office to assure that the name you have selected for your business is available.

**Register Your Legal Structure**

After you secure your business name, you must register your business legal structure. The four basic types of legal structures in Arkansas are sole proprietorship, partnerships, corporations and limited liability companies. You must register sole proprietorships with your local County Clerk. Register corporations, partnerships and LLCs with the Arkansas Secretary of State, Business and Commercial Services Division.

**Employer Identification Number**

After you register your business legal structure, you must apply for an Employer Identification Number with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) so that your business can be officially recorded by the federal government as a tax-compliant entity.

**Register with the Department of Finance**

Once you have the Federal EIN, you must register your business with Arkansas’ Department of Finance and Administration using the Arkansas Taxpayer Access Point (ATAP) so that you can pay all the necessary state taxes according to your business’ legal structure.

**Commercial Property Assessment**

Filing a DBA and obtaining federal and state identification formally establishes your business as a legitimate entity and now allows you to move on to the local (city and county) regulatory process. Your next step is to have your commercial property assessed by the County Assessor’s office.

**Obtain Licenses, Permits and Inspections**

The “final step” in the regulatory process actually involves obtaining licenses, permits and inspections from various city, county and state agencies including a city business license. Other requirements include:

- Certificate of Occupancy
- Building Permit / Inspection
- Fire Code Inspection
- Food Establishment Permit
- Historic District Permit
- Remodeling Permit
- Sign Permit
- Zoning Approval / Permit
Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center
UALR College of Business
Donald W. Reynolds Center for Business and Economic Development
2801 S. University
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204
Tel: 800-862-2040
Fax: 501.683.7720
http://asbtdc.ualr.edu

Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center
Arkansas Tech University
College of Business
Rothwell Hall
106 West O Street
Russellville AR 72801
Tel: 479.356.2067
www.atu.edu/asbtdc/

Small Business Administration
Arkansas District Office
2120 Riverfront Drive, Suite 250
Little Rock, AR 72202-1796
Tel: 501.324.7379
Fax: 501.324.7394
www.sba.gov/ar

Little Rock SCORE
2120 Riverfront Drive, Suite 250
Little Rock, AR 72202-1796
Tel: 501.324.7379 Ext. 302
Fax: 501.324.7395
www.littlerock.scorechapter.org/

Alma Area Chamber of Commerce
725 Fayetteville Avenue
Alma, AR 72921-2607
Tel: 479.632.4127
Fax: 479.632.4037
www.almachamber.com

Van Buren Chamber of Commerce
510 Main Street
Van Buren, AR 72957
Tel: 479.474.2761
Fax: 479.474.6259
www.vanburencity.org/

Crawford County Public Library
P624 Fayetteville Avenue
Alma, AR 72921
Tel: 479.632.4140
http://www2.youseemore.com/crawfordcls/directory.asp?ID=

Crawford County Volunteers for Literacy
927 E. Main #B
Van Buren, AR 72956
Tel: 479.474.4594
Fax: 479.474.5566