

## 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/ofs/docs/index.php](http://www.ark.org/sos/ofs/docs/index.php)
- Apply for your Employer Identification Number (EIN) with the IRS at <https://sa1.www4.irs.gov/modiein/individual/index.jsp>
- Register for Arkansas state taxes with the Arkansas Dept. of Finance and Administration's Arkansas Taxpayer Access Point (ATAP) at <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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# Checklist for Licensing a New Business

Washington County, Arkansas  
Tontitown, West Fork



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food and  
Agriculture

**UofA** DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
University of Arkansas System

## 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

## State Government Offices

### Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration

Washington County Revenue Office  
965 S. Razorback Road, Suite 2  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
Tel: 479.442.7691  
Fax: 479.587.9408  
[www.dfa.arkansas.gov/Pages/businessServices.aspx](http://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/Pages/businessServices.aspx)

### Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration

Washington County Revenue Office  
215 S. Main Street  
Lincoln, AR 72744  
Tel: 479.824.3110  
Fax: 479.824.3697  
[www.dfa.arkansas.gov/Pages/businessServices.aspx](http://www.dfa.arkansas.gov/Pages/businessServices.aspx)

### Arkansas Secretary of State Business and Commercial Services Division

1401 West Capitol Avenue, Suite 250  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
Tel: 501.682.3409  
[www.sosweb.state.ar.us/corp\\_ucc.html](http://www.sosweb.state.ar.us/corp_ucc.html)

## Local Government Offices

### Washington County Assessor's Office

280 N. College, Suite 250  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
Tel: 479.444.1500  
Fax: 479.444.1518  
[www.co.washington.ar.us/](http://www.co.washington.ar.us/)

### Washington County Clerk's Office

280 N. College, Suite 300  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
Tel: 479.444.1711  
Fax: 479.444.1894  
[www.co.washington.ar.us/](http://www.co.washington.ar.us/)

### Washington County Cooperative Extension Service

2536 North McConnell Avenue  
Fayetteville, AR 72704  
Tel: 479.444.1755  
Fax: 479.444.1764  
<http://www.uaex.edu/washington/>

### Washington County Health Unit

3270 Wimberly Drive  
Fayetteville, AR 72703  
Tel: 479.521.8181  
Fax: 479.973.8483

### Tontitown Recorder/Treasurer

235 E. Henri de Tonti  
Tontitown, AR 72770  
Tel: 479.361.2700  
[www.tontitown.com/administration.html](http://www.tontitown.com/administration.html)

### City of Tontitown Code Enforcement

297 W. Henri de Tonti  
Tontitown, AR 72770  
Tel: 479.361.9702  
Fax: 501.421.0012  
[www.tontitown.com/ce.html](http://www.tontitown.com/ce.html)

### Tontitown Fire Department

Tontitown, AR 72770  
Tel: 479.361.2185  
Fax: 479.361.5966  
[www.taafd.org/](http://www.taafd.org/)

### West Fork City Clerk

262 W. Main  
West Fork, AR 72774  
Tel: 479.839.2342  
Fax: 479.839.3335  
<http://west-fork-ar.com/city.html>

### West Fork Fire Department

209 W. Main  
West Fork, AR 72774  
Tel: 479.839.2233

## Small Business and Educational Resources

### Arkansas Small Business and Technology Development Center

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville  
Sam M. Walton College of Business  
Donald W. Reynolds Center for Enterprise Development, Suite 210  
145 North Buchanan  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
Tel: 479.575.5148  
<http://sbtcdc.uark.edu/>

### 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](http://www.sba.gov/ar)

### Northwest Arkansas SCORE

614 E. Emma Street, Room M412  
Springdale, AR 72764  
Tel: 479.725.1809  
<http://northwestarkansas.score.org/chapters/northwest-arkansas-score>

### West Fork Public Library

198 Main  
West Fork, AR 72774  
Tel: 479.839.2626  
<http://wcls.lib.ar.us/Libraries/newwestfork.htm>

### Ozark Literacy Council

2596 Keystone Crossing  
Fayetteville, AR 72703  
Tel: 479.521.8250  
Fax: 479.582.0846  
[www.ozarkliteracy.org](http://www.ozarkliteracy.org)