

STARTING A BUSINESS IN MAUMELLE

OBTAINING PERMITS & LICENSES

STEP 1: Register the name of your business.

If you wish to incorporate your business, call the Secretary of State Incorporations office at 501-682-3409. They are located at 1401 West Capitol Avenue (in the Victory/KARK-TV Building), Suite 250, in Little Rock (one block east of the State Capitol building).

If you do not incorporate your business, you will have to register the name of your business by obtaining a DBA (Doing Business As) certificate from your county clerk's office. The telephone number for the Pulaski County Clerk's DBA office is (501) 340-8330. Their office is in the Pulaski County Courthouse at 401 Broadway Street in Little Rock (on the southeast corner of West Markham and Broadway streets). This is required (if you do not incorporate) and legally permits you to conduct business under that name. This also provides some protection for your business name in the county that you file in, and prevents any other businesses from using the same name in that county.

STEP 2: Apply for zoning approval for your business and obtain a business license.

For questions regarding zoning or construction permits, call 501-851-2500, ext 229. For questions regarding business licenses, call 501-851-2500, ext 224.

If you are running your business from your home, please read this: Before you begin running a business from inside your home, you must fill out an application for a business license and a home occupation accessory use permit. You can apply online by going to <https://www.maumelle.org/DocumentCenter/View/48/Home-Business-Application-PDF> or you can apply in person at City Hall, 550 Edgewood Drive. Applications for home-based business licenses are generally approved or denied within five to ten business days.

If you are running your business from a commercial location, please read this: Before you purchase a building, or sign a lease or rental agreement, you should contact the Maumelle Planning and Permitting Department at 501-851-2500 to determine if the location where you plan on opening your business is zoned for your type of business. If the zoning is OK, then you can begin the application process for your business license. The current registration form is located at the following link:

<https://www.maumelle.org/DocumentCenter/View/1212/2020-Business-Registration-Form>

Be aware, if there is a change of use of the existing building or a remodel is planned, you may be subject to additional requirements.

STEP 3: Assess your business.

All businesses located in Pulaski County must pay Business Personal Property taxes for any personal property used in the course of that business. For more information, contact the Pulaski County Assessor's Business Personal Property Office at 501-340-3366. Their main office is located at 201 Broadway Street in Little Rock (at the corner of 2nd and Broadway Streets in the Pulaski County Administration Building, one block south of the Courthouse). More information is available online at www.pulaskicountyassessor.net.

STEP 4: Apply for sales tax permit.

Most, but not all business must obtain a sales tax permit. All retail-based and some service-based businesses must charge sales tax. For more information about sales tax, and to apply for a permit, contact the State of Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration Sales Tax Section at 501-682-7104. Their office is located at 1816 West 7th Street, Room 2420 in Little Rock (in the Ledbetter Building at West 7th and South Battery streets, across Interstate 630 from Arkansas Children's Hospital). All sales tax collections are remitted directly to the State on a monthly basis. Sales tax in Little Rock city limits is currently 9.0% (6.5% Arkansas + 1% Pulaski + 1.5% Little Rock) = 9.0%; as of July 1, 2013). More information is available from the Department of Finance and Administration's website at: www.arkansas.gov/dfa/excise_tax_v2/st_index.html.

The Department of Finance and Administration also reports General Revenue for each month, Gross tax collections, Fiscal notes, sales tax holiday dates, and numerous other board meetings for Alcoholic Beverage Control, Administrative/Violation Hearing, Jail inspections, etc.

STEP 5: Obtain a Federal Employer ID number.

The Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) is used to report withholding taxes, and almost all businesses are required to obtain one. EINs can be obtained free of charge. You can obtain a number by calling 1-800-829-4933 (Monday through Friday, 7 A.M. to 10 P.M.), or filling out IRS Form SS-4, or by applying online. More information is available by visiting the IRS Small Business Resource website at <https://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs/about-form-ss-4>.

STEP 6: Register for state withholding.

After obtaining a Federal EIN, you should register with the state for a state withholding report. For more information, contact the Department of Finance and Administration Office of Income Tax Administration at 501-682-7290. More information and various forms are available online at http://www.arkansas.gov/dfa/income_tax/tax_index.html.

STEP 7: Register for unemployment insurance.

You must register your business with the State of Arkansas Employment Security Department if your business has (or has had) at least one employee. For more information, insurance rates, and to register your business for state unemployment insurance, contact the Employment Security Department at 501-682-8030 or 501-682-3268. Their main office is located at 1 Pershing Circle in North Little Rock, and their Little Rock office is at 125 West 4th Street.

STEP 8: Obtain Worker's Compensation insurance.

Most businesses, as required by law, must obtain Worker's Compensation insurance. You may obtain this insurance through your insurance agent. For more information about Worker's Compensation, as well as special requirements for applicable businesses, contact the Worker's Compensation Commission at 501-682-3930. Their office is located at 324 South Spring Street in Little Rock (at the corner of West 3rd and South Spring streets).

STEP 9: Contact INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service).

For each employee, an Employment Eligibility Verification Form (INS Form I-9) must be completed. The forms must be filed within three working days after employment begins. Any required documentation which is unavailable on the hire date must be submitted within twenty-one (21) working days. For more information about employment eligibility, contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly Immigration and Naturalization Service) at 1-901-544-3301 (Memphis, TN office telephone number) or 1-800-375-5283.

STEP 10: Obtain other permits.

The following is NOT a comprehensive list of special licenses required. Contact the Research and Analysis Section of the Arkansas Employment Security Division at 501-682-1543 to find out if your particular occupation requires an occupational license or permit.

Any businesses serving alcohol must obtain both State and City permits.

State permits are obtained through ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control). Their phone number is 501-682-1105 and they are located at 1515 West 7th Street (the "1515 Building"), Suite 503 in Little Rock.

The State of Arkansas has a supplemental tax of ten percent (10%) plus an additional supplemental tax of four percent (4%) that is charged on the sale of mixed drinks. Both of these supplemental taxes are due by the 20th of the next month (i.e. Supplemental taxes for the month of April are required to be postmarked no later than May 20th).

Any businesses selling tobacco must obtain both State and City permits.

State permits are obtained through the Arkansas Tobacco Control Board, located at 101 East Capitol Avenue (the Main Street Mall building), suite 204 in Little Rock. Their phone number is 501-682-9756.

Contractors:

For information regarding state licensing, contact the Contractors Licensing Board at 501-372-4661. Their office is located at 4100 Richards Road in North Little Rock (two blocks north of East McCain Boulevard, near the Wal-Mart Supercenter).

For information regarding city permits, call the Planning and Permitting office at 501-851-2500 ext. 229. They are located at 550 Edgewood Drive (City Hall).