

Essentials of Business Entities For Taxation in Virginia

**Roderick B. Williams,
COUNTY ATTORNEY
FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

**August 10, 2012 - VALTA
Virginia Association of Local Tax Auditors**



The Corporate / Entity Form:

Who Is Your Taxpayer?

Who Is Your Taxpayer?

- ***Stock corporation*** – Va. Code Title 13.1, Chapter 9
 - Must register with the SCC
 - Must have "corporation," "incorporated," "company," or "limited," or abbreviation "corp.," "inc.," "co.," or "ltd." in name [Va. Code § 13.1-630(A)]
- ***Nonstock corporation*** (e.g., not for profit) – Va. Code Title 13.1, Chapter 10
 - Must register with the SCC
 - Special rules apply regarding names [Va. Code § 13.1-829]



Commonwealth of Virginia
State Corporation Commission

Who Is Your Taxpayer?

- **Limited liability company (“LLC”/“LC”)** – Va. Code Title 13.1, Chapter 12
 - Must register with the SCC
 - Must have "limited company" or "limited liability company" or abbreviations "L.C.," "LC," "L.L.C.," or "LLC." in name [Va. Code § 13.1-1012(A)]
- **Professional limited liability company (“PLLC”/“PLC”)** – Va. Code Title 13.1, Chapter 13
 - Must register with the SCC
 - May have initials "P.L.C.," "PLC," "P.L.L.C." or "PLLC," or phrase "professional limited company," "a professional limited company," "professional limited liability company," or "a professional limited liability company," at end of name, instead of one of the terms or abbreviations required for LLCs/LCs [Va. Code § 13.1-1104]

Who Is Your Taxpayer?

- ***Business trust*** – Va. Code Title 13.1, Chapter 14
 - Must register with the SCC
 - May have "company," "association," "club," "foundation," "fund," "institute," "society," "union," "syndicate," or "trust," or abbreviations of like import in name [Va. Code § 13.1-1214(A)]
- ***General partnership*** – Va. Code Title 50, Chapter 2.2
- ***Limited partnership*** – Va. Code Title 50, Chapter 2.1
 - Must have "limited partnership" or "a limited partnership" or the abbreviations "L.P." or "LP" in name [Va. Code 50-73.2(A); Further rules apply for out-of-state partnerships]
- ***Sole proprietorship*** – essentially one and the same with the individual owner
 - Frequently uses a trade name ("fictitious name")

Who Is Your Taxpayer?

Business names – What is the legal name of a business?

- **Corporations/LLCs/Business Trusts – name registered with SCC**
- **Partnership – name given in partnership agreement**
- **Sole proprietorship – legal name of individual**
- **All of the above may use a properly filed trade name (“fictitious name”)**

Who Is Your Taxpayer?

Additional item:

- Va. Code § 1-230: “**Person**” includes any individual, corporation, partnership, association, cooperative, limited liability company, trust, joint venture, government, political subdivision, or any other legal or commercial entity and any successor, representative, agent, agency, or instrumentality thereof.
- Va. Code § 1-231: Whenever the term “person” is defined to include both “corporation” and “partnership,” such term shall also include “business trust and limited liability company.”
- A “natural person” is an individual – that is, a real human being.



***The Significance of the
Corporate / Entity Form:***

***Why Form a
Corporation / Entity?***

Why Form a Corporation / Entity?

- **Ability to conglomerate funds from multiple individuals.**
- **Infinite existence – not limited to the life of any one individual.**
- **Protection from personal liability – liability of owners/investors is typically limited to the extent of their investment.**



Corporate / Entity Form in Practice:

***How Should You Identify
Corporate / Entity Form, and
What Other Information
Should You Obtain?***

How Should You Identify Corporate / Entity Form, and What Other Information Should You Obtain?

To be completed by the taxpayer on a tax office form:

➤ **Exact legal name of entity**

- **For example, as shown in the SCC records**

➤ **Check boxes for type of entity:**

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Stock corporation | ☐ Business trust |
| ☐ Nonstock/not for profit corporation | ☐ General partnership |
| ☐ Limited liability company (LLC/LC) | ☐ Limited partnership |
| ☐ Professional limited liability company (PLLC/PLC) | ☐ Sole proprietorship |
| | ☐ Other – please specify: |
-



Check boxes for Type of Business Entity



FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA ELLEN E. MURPHY, COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

107 North Kent Street, Winchester VA 22601 • PO Box 552, Winchester VA 22604-0552

BEV ROSATO
Business Division
Fax: 540-667-6487

www.frederickcountyva.gov/cor
www.twitter.com/fccomrev
www.frederickcountyva.gov/biztax
biztax@co.frederick.va.us

Phone: 540-722-8329
540-722-8393
540-722-8336

OFFICE USE ONLY:
☐ Zoning
☐ Contractors Lic.
☐ Tradesman
☐ Fictitious Name
☐ WC
☐ Payment

License Year:
Account No.:
Date License
Issued:

APPLICATION FOR NEW BUSINESS LICENSE FOR CURRENT YEAR

Applicant(s):	If Contractor, are you out-of-jurisdiction: ☐ Yes ☐ No																					
Trade Name:	Fictitious Name Filing: ☐ Not Required ☐ Required ☐ Filed																					
Mailing Address:																						
Business (Physical) Address:																						
Business Phone:	Fax:																					
Contact Person:	Contact Phone No.:																					
Email Address:																						
Business Name:	Date Business Began:																					
Type of Business Entity & Names/Titles of all:	Check one: ☐ Sole Proprietor/Individual ☐ Stock Corporation ☐ Non-Stock Corporation ☐ LLC/LC ☐ PLLC/PLC ☐ General Partnership ☐ Limited Partnership ☐ Business Trust ☐ Other (specify):																					
- Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) - Directors - Partners - Members - Managers - Trustees	If applicable, have you registered w/ the SCC: ☐ Yes ☐ No If registered, provide SCC ID No.:																					
	SCC Registered Agent:																					
	For Corporation, Partnership, LLC/LC, PLLC/PLC, Business Trust: List ALL names and titles																					
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Title</th> <th>Name</th> <th>Title</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Name	Title	Name	Title															
Name	Title	Name	Title																			

Type of Business Entity & Names/Titles of all: - Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) - Directors - Partners - Members - Managers - Trustees	Check one: ☐ Sole Proprietor/Individual ☐ Stock Corporation ☐ Non-Stock Corporation ☐ LLC/LC ☐ PLLC/PLC ☐ General Partnership ☐ Limited Partnership ☐ Business Trust ☐ Other (specify):			
	If applicable, have you registered w/ the SCC: ☐ Yes ☐ No If registered, provide SCC ID No.:			
	SCC Registered Agent:			
	For Corporation, Partnership, LLC/LC, PLLC/PLC, Business Trust: List ALL names and titles			
	Name Title Name Title Name Title Name Title		Name Title Name Title Name Title Name Title	
	Name Title Name Title Name Title Name Title		Name Title Name Title Name Title Name Title	

RETAIL OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	applicable fee.	SUBTOTAL E. \$		F. \$	G. \$	OR ☐ Private Club
TOTAL FEE (add E through G): \$						
GRAND TOTAL DUE (A through G) (payable to Treasurer of Frederick County): \$						
Note: If your license tax exceeds \$1,000, then quarterly installment payments may be made.						
This application with signature confirms that Applicant has complied with all the requirements of the Frederick County Code. The owner must sign and date this form. If the business is an entity such as an association, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation, it must be signed by a member, partner, executive officer, or other person specifically authorized in writing by the association, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation to sign. Please see reverse side for additional instructions. It is a misdemeanor for any person to willfully subscribe a return which is not believed to be true and correct as to every material matter. (Code Va. Sec. 58.1-11)						
I, the undersigned, do swear or affirm under penalty or perjury (1) that the figures and statements herein are true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, (2) that I understand the limits of this Business License, and (3) that I am the owner or a member, partner, executive officer, or other person specifically authorized in writing to sign.						
Signature		Print Name		Title or Capacity for Signing		Date

[continues on reverse side]

How Should You Identify Corporate/Entity Form, and What Other Information Should You Obtain?

➤ ***State of organization***

- Entities organized/created in other States must register in Virginia, typically with the SCC, if doing business in Virginia. See, *e.g.*, Va. Code § 13.1-757 (for stock corporations; parallel provisions exist for other entity forms).

➤ ***SCC registration (corporate ID) number, if required to register with SCC***

- **NOT** the IRS Taxpayer ID Number/EIN, so why obtain this?
 - ❖ Helps verify that the entity really has registered & is up to date.
 - ❖ Allows use of entity lookup page on SCC's website to confirm correct entity name and status.

https://cisiweb.scc.virginia.gov/z_container.aspx

SCC Lookup

Commonwealth of Virginia
State Corporation Commission

SCC Clerk's Information System

WEB#172 CIS

1 61 CISM1001 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE 09:40:34

[Help](#)
[Print](#)
[Signoff](#)

SCC eFile
Visit SCCeFile!

CORPORATE QUERIES		CISM8710
PF1 CORPORATION DATA	PF10 STOCK HISTORY	SIGN
PF2 CURRENT STOCK	PF11 STATUS HISTORY	
PF3 REGISTERED AGENT	PF12 OLD NAME	
PF4 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE	PF13 NAME AVAILABILITY	
PF5 MICROFILM	PF14 ASSESSMENT/PAYMENT	
PF6 FICTITIOUS NAMES	PF15 AMENDMENT HISTORY	
PF7 MERGER DATA	PF16 ANNUAL REPORT HISTORY	
PF8 CORPORATION ACTIVITY	PF17 NAME SEARCH CORP	
PF9 CASE/MONITOR	PF18 CONVERSION HISTORY	
	PF19 DOMESTICATION HISTORY	

Commonwealth of Virginia
State Corporation Commission

SCC Clerk's Information System

CISM0180 CORPORATE DATA INQUIRY 08/07/12 09:37:53

[Help](#)
[Print](#)
[Signoff](#)

CORP ID: F187253 - 2 STATUS: 00 ACTIVE STATUS DATE: 09/07/11
CORP NAME: C&K Delivery, Inc.

DATE OF CERTIFICATE: 09/07/2011 PERIOD OF DURATION: INDUSTRY CODE: 00
STATE OF INCORPORATION: MD MARYLAND STOCK INDICATOR: S STOCK
MERGER IND: CONVERSION/DOMESTICATION IND:
GOOD STANDING IND: Y MONITOR INDICATOR:
CHARTER FEE: 50.00 MON NO: MON STATUS: MONITOR DTE:
R/A NAME: LORRAINE MOSSBURG

STREET: 2764 RIVERVIEW DR AR RTN MAIL:

CITY: TOMS BROOK STATE: VA ZIP: 22660
R/A STATUS: 2 OFFICER EFF. DATE: 09/07/11 LOC: 185
ACCEPTED AR#: 000 00 0000 DATE: SHENANDOAH COUN
CURRENT AR#: 000 00 0000 DATE: STATUS: ASSESSMENT INDICATOR: 0

YEAR	FEES	PENALTY	INTEREST	TAXES	BALANCE	TOTAL SHARES
12	100.00				100.00	1,000

Done Internet 100%

How Should You Identify Corporate/Entity Form, and What Other Information Should You Obtain?

➤ *IRS Taxpayer ID Number a/k/a Employer Identification Number (EIN)*

- Reasonably easy to obtain an IRS Taxpayer ID Number (EIN), by either filling out **Form SS-4** or doing it right **online**.
- Uses interview-style online application (they ask the questions/you give them the answers).
- Includes embedded help topics & hyperlinked keywords/definitions so separate instructions aren't needed.
- After all validations are done, taxpayer will get EIN immediately to download, save, and print.

Form SS-4 Application for Employer Identification Number (OMB No. 1545-0002)

(Rev. January 2010)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

For use by employers, corporations, partnerships, trusts, estates, churches, government agencies, Indian tribal entities, certain individuals, and others.
See separate instructions for each line. Keep a copy for your records.

1 Legal name of entity (or individual) for whom the EIN is being requested

2 Trade name of business (if different from name on line 1)

3a Mailing address (room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. box)

3b City, state, and ZIP code (if foreign, see instructions)

4a Mailing address (if different) (Do not enter a P.O. box)

4b City, state, and ZIP code (if foreign, see instructions)

5 County and state where principal business is located

6a If a corporation, name the state or foreign country (if applicable) where incorporated

6b If a corporation, name the state or foreign country (if applicable) where principal business is located

7a SSN, ITIN, or EIN

7b If "Yes," enter the number of LLC members

8a If "Yes," see the instructions for the correct box to check.

8b If "Yes," see the instructions for the correct box to check.

9a Reason for applying (check only one box)

9b Reason for applying (check only one box)

10 Date business started or acquired (month, day, year). See instructions.

11 Highest number of employees expected in the next 12 months (enter -0- if none).

12 Closing month of accounting year

13 First date wages or annuities were paid (month, day, year). Note. If applicant is a withholding agent, enter date income will first be paid to nonresident alien (month, day, year).

14 Check one box that best describes the principal activity of your business.

15 Indicate principal line of merchandise sold, specific construction work done, products produced, or services provided.

16 Has the applicant entity shown on line 1 ever applied for and received an EIN? Yes No

17 If "Yes," write previous EIN here

Third Party Designee

Signature

Date

For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see separate instructions. Cat. No. 16020N Form SS-4 (Rev. 1-2010)

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/fss4.pdf>

How Should You Identify Corporate/Entity Form, and What Other Information Should You Obtain?

- In fact, given IRS's answer (on the back of Form SS-4) to **"Do I need an EIN?"**, there is little reason for the taxpayer not to have one when they come to your office.

For example, a sole proprietorship or self-employed farmer who establishes a qualified retirement plan, or is required to file excise, employment, alcohol, tobacco, or firearms returns, **must have an EIN**.

A partnership, corporation, REMIC (real estate mortgage investment conduit), nonprofit organization (church, club, etc.), or farmers' cooperative **must use an EIN** for any tax-related purpose even if the entity does not have employees.

Form SS-4 (Rev. 1-2010)		Page 2
Do I Need an EIN?		
File Form SS-4 if the applicant entity does not already have an EIN but is required to show an EIN on any return, statement, or other document. ¹ See also the separate instructions for each line on Form SS-4.		
IF the applicant...	AND...	THEN...
Started a new business	Does not currently have (nor expect to have) employees	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), and 10-14 and 16-18.
Hired (or will hire) employees, including household employees	Does not already have an EIN	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-8, 7a-b (if applicable), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10-18.
Opened a bank account	Needs an EIN for banking purposes only	Complete lines 1-5b, 7a-b (if applicable), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10, and 18.
Changed type of organization	Either the legal character of the organization or its ownership changed (for example, you incorporate a sole proprietorship or form a partnership) ²	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).
Purchased a going business ³	Does not already have an EIN	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).
Created a trust	The trust is other than a grantor trust or an IRA trust ⁴	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).
Created a pension plan as a plan administrator	Needs an EIN for reporting purposes	Complete lines 1, 3, 4a-5b, 9a, 10, and 18.
Is a foreign person receiving an EIN to comply with IRS withholding regulations	Needs an EIN to complete a Form W-8 (other than Form W-8EC), avoid withholding on portfolio assets, or claim tax treaty benefits ⁵	Complete lines 1-5b, 7a-b (SSN or ITIN optional), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10, and 18.
Is administering an estate	Needs an EIN to report estate income on Form 1041	Complete lines 1-6, 9a, 10-12, 13-17 (if applicable), and 18.
Is a withholding agent for taxes on non-wage income paid to an alien (i.e., individual, corporation, or partnership, etc.)	Is an agent, broker, fiduciary, manager, tenant, or spouse who is required to file Form 1042, Annual Withholding Tax Return for U.S. Source Income of Foreign Persons	Complete lines 1, 2, 3 (if applicable), 4a-5b, 7a-b (if applicable), 8a, 8b-c (if applicable), 9a, 9b (if applicable), 10, and 18.
Is a state or local agency	Serves as a tax reporting agent for public assistance recipients under Rev. Proc. 80-4, 1980-1 C.B. 581 ⁷	Complete lines 1, 2, 4a-5b, 9a, 10, and 18.
Is a single-member LLC	Needs an EIN to file Form 9832, Classification Election, for filing employment tax returns and excise tax returns, or for state reporting purposes ⁸	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).
Is an S corporation	Needs an EIN to file Form 2553, Election by a Small Business Corporation ⁹	Complete lines 1-18 (as applicable).

¹ For example, a sole proprietorship or self-employed farmer who establishes a qualified retirement plan, or is required to file excise, employment, alcohol, tobacco, or firearms returns, must have an EIN. A partnership, corporation, REMIC (real estate mortgage investment conduit), nonprofit organization (church, club, etc.), or farmers' cooperative must use an EIN for any tax-related purpose even if the entity does not have employees.

² However, do not apply for a new EIN if the existing entity only (a) changed its business name, (b) elected on Form 8832 to change the way it is taxed (if covered by the default rules), or (c) terminated its partnership status because at least 50% of the total interests in partnership capital and profits were sold or exchanged within a 12-month period. The EIN of the terminated partnership should continue to be used. See Regulations section 301.6109-1(b)(2)(iii).

³ Do not use the EIN of the prior business unless you became the "owner" of a corporation by acquiring its stock.

⁴ However, grantor trusts that do not file using Optional Method 1 and IRA trusts that are required to file Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return, must have an EIN. For more information on grantor trusts, see the Instructions for Form 1041.

⁵ A plan administrator is the person or group of persons specified as the administrator by the instrument under which the plan is operated.

⁶ Entities applying to be a Qualified Intermediary (QI) need a QI EIN even if they already have an EIN. See Rev. Proc. 2000-12.

⁷ See also Household employer on page 4 of the instructions. Note, State or local agencies may need an EIN for other reasons, for example, hired employees.

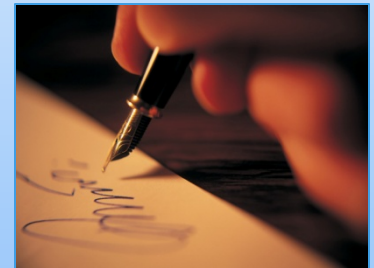
⁸ See Disregarded entities on page 4 of the instructions for details on completing Form SS-4 for an LLC.

⁹ An existing corporation that is electing or revoking S corporation status should use its previously-assigned EIN.

How Should You Identify Corporate/Entity Form, and What Other Information Should You Obtain?

➤ Signature/Title of Signatory

- Ideally, an **officer**, a **director**, or (for LLCs) a **member**, should sign.
- In reality, for some businesses – particularly larger businesses or businesses that are decentralized – this may simply need to be a local/office manager, *i.e.*, someone you reasonably believe has **authority**.
 - ❖ For example, if you have an Apple Computer store at the local mall, you might not be able to get someone from the corporate office to sign.



How Should You Identify Corporate/Entity Form, and What Other Information Should You Obtain?

➤ *Signature/Title of Signatory*

- **Obtaining the title of the signatory helps you verify the signatory's authority.**
 - ❖ **If the signatory does not know what title to indicate, then they probably are not qualified to sign.**
- **Related Issue: Agents**
 - ❖ **Sometimes, particularly with large entities, an outside consultant, who is not an employee of the entity, will sign tax returns. This is not necessarily improper, but you need to confirm, either on initial submission or on audit, that the **signatory actually has authority**. The best practice is for the entity to submit a power of attorney for the signatory. See, e.g., VA TAX Form PAR 101.**
 - ❖ **It may be possible to argue that a filing made by an outside non-employee consultant is of no legal effect.**

How Should You Identify Corporate/Entity Form, and What Other Information Should You Obtain?

➤ Signature/Title of Signatory: Sample

The **owner must sign** and date this form. If the business is an **entity** such as an association, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation, it must be signed by a member, partner, executive officer, or other person **specifically authorized in writing** by the association, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation to sign. *It is a misdemeanor for any person to willfully subscribe a return which is not believed to be true and correct as to every material matter.* (Code Va. Sec. 58.1-11)

I, the undersigned, do swear or affirm under penalty or perjury (1) that the information herein is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and (2) that I am the owner or a member, partner, executive officer, or other person specifically authorized in writing to sign.

Signature

Print Name

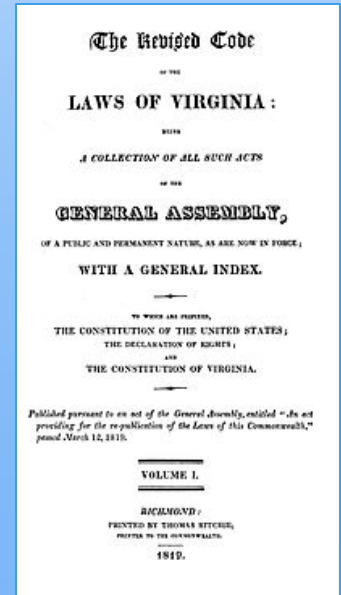
Title/Capacity for Signing

Date

How Should You Identify Corporate/Entity Form, and What Other Information Should You Obtain?

➤ *Fictitious name, if any*

- “No person, partnership, limited liability company or corporation can conduct or transact business under any assumed or fictitious name unless it signs and acknowledges a certificate ... and files the certificate in the office of the clerk of the court in which deeds are recorded in the county/city wherein the business is to be conducted.” [Va. Code § 59.1-69]



How Should You Identify Corporate/Entity Form, and What Other Information Should You Obtain?

➤ **Fictitious or assumed name** = name that a person (individual or business entity) uses instead of the person's legal name

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED OR FICTITIOUS NAME

This is to certify that the below named person, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation intends to conduct or transact business in the [] City [] County of

under an assumed or fictitious name.

1. The ASSUMED OR FICTITIOUS NAME of business:

NAME: _____

2. The above business is owned by the following entity type

[] SOLE PROPRIETORSHIP (Complete A below) [] PARTNERSHIP (Complete B below)

[] LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY [] CORPORATION (Complete C below)

A. NAME OF OWNER: _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS: _____

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: _____

B. NAME OF PARTNERSHIP: _____

OFFICE ADDRESS: _____

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: _____

(1) Is this a general partnership? [] NO [] YES. If YES, complete the Statement of Partners on reverse side.

(2) Is this a domestic limited partnership? [] NO [] YES. If YES, a certified copy of this certificate must be filed with the State Corporation Commission. § 59.1-70.

(3) Is this a foreign limited partnership? [] NO [] YES. If YES, indicate the date of the certificate of registration to transact business in the Commonwealth of Virginia issued by the State Corporation Commission.

A certified copy of this certificate must be filed with the State Corporation Commission § 59.1-70.

C. NAME OF [] CORPORATION [] LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY: _____

OFFICE ADDRESS: _____

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: _____

(1) A corporation or limited liability company must file a certified copy of this certificate with the State Corporation Commission. § 59.1-70.

(2) Is this a foreign corporation or a foreign limited liability company? [] NO [] YES. If YES, indicate the date of the certificate of authority/registration to transact business in the Commonwealth of Virginia issued by the State Corporation Commission.

A certified copy of this certificate must be filed with the State Corporation Commission § 59.1-70.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I certify that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

A. Sole Proprietorship _____ NAME OF OWNER _____ SIGNATURE OF OWNER _____

B. Partnership _____ NAME OF GENERAL PARTNER _____ SIGNATURE OF GENERAL PARTNER _____

C. Corporation _____ NAME OF PRESIDENT _____ SIGNATURE OF PRESIDENT _____

D. Limited Liability Company _____ NAME OF MEMBER/MANAGER _____ SIGNATURE OF MEMBER/MANAGER _____

[] City [] County of _____

Acknowledged, subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

My commission expires _____ [] CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK [] NOTARY PUBLIC _____

CLERK'S OFFICE

Filed in the Clerk's Office of the _____ Circuit Court on _____ DATE _____

_____, Clerk by _____ Deputy Clerk

FORM CC-1417 (MASTER, PAGE ONE OF TWO) REVISED 5/05

VA. CODE § 59.1-69

STATEMENT OF PARTNERS

to certify that the below named persons intend to carry on business as partners in the [] City of _____ under an assumed or fictitious name, and that the following of every person owning the GENERAL PARTNERSHIP set forth on the front of this certificate.

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) _____ SIGNATURE _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

City of _____

red and acknowledged before me by _____, this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

mission expires _____ [] NOTARY PUBLIC [] CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK _____

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) _____ SIGNATURE _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

City of _____

red and acknowledged before me by _____, this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

mission expires _____ [] NOTARY PUBLIC [] CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK _____

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) _____ SIGNATURE _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

City of _____

red and acknowledged before me by _____, this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

mission expires _____ [] NOTARY PUBLIC [] CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK _____

NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) _____ SIGNATURE _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

City of _____

red and acknowledged before me by _____, this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

mission expires _____ [] NOTARY PUBLIC [] CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK _____

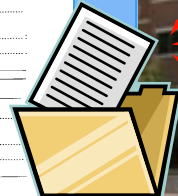
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) _____ SIGNATURE _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____

City of _____

red and acknowledged before me by _____, this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

mission expires _____ [] NOTARY PUBLIC [] CLERK/DEPUTY CLERK _____



How Should You Identify Corporate/Entity Form, and What Other Information Should You Obtain?

➤ **Certificate sets forth:**

- **name** under which business is to be conducted/transacted
- names of **each person, partnership, LLC, or corporation** owning same
- **respective post office and residence addresses**
 - and-
- **if foreign limited partnership or LLC, date of Certificate of Registration** to transact business in VA issued to it by SCC or
- **if foreign corporation, date of Certificate of Authority** to transact business in VA issued to it by SCC

How Should You Identify Corporate/Entity Form, and What Other Information Should You Obtain?

- **Who must file a fictitious name certificate?**
 - Generally, if the name does not at least include the surname of the owner and a word descriptive of the business.
 - For example, where A. E. Tate was the owner of “A. E. Tate Lumber Company”, no filing was required. Tate v. Atlanta Oak Flooring Co., 179 Va. 365, 18 S.E.2d 903 (1942).
 - The object of the statute is to protect the public by giving information as to the person with which it deals and to afford it protection against possible fraud and deceit. Tate.
 - Thus, the name should reveal the identity of the individual transacting the business and disclose the nature of the business. Tate.



***Consequences / Problems:
and the Taxpayer?***

***Why Is All of This Important
... for the Taxpayer and
for Local Tax Officials?***

Why Is All of This Important ... for the Taxpayer and for Local Tax Officials?

- For the taxpayer, failure to maintain proper corporate/entity form may result in personal liability. So, what must (or must not) the taxpayer do?
 - Keep any registration with the SCC up to date.
 - Maintain proper records of entity actions, *e.g.* meeting minutes and the like.
 - Keep corporate/entity funds separate from personal funds – no intermingling.
 - Not “undercapitalize” – such as might occur as the result of a principal of the entity taking excess distributions from the entity.

Why Is All of This Important ... for the Taxpayer and for Local Tax Officials?

- **For the local tax official, failure to obtain correct taxpayer identifying information may result in uncertainty or confusion over who is responsible for reporting and payment of taxes and, possibly, inability to enforce and/or collect local tax obligations.**



Why Is All of This Important ... for the Taxpayer and for Local Tax Officials?

➤ Some examples of problems:

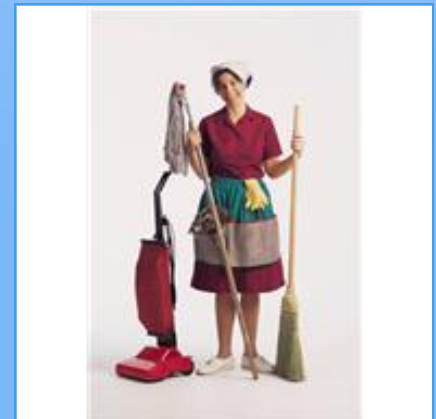
- **“McDonald’s” – If you get a tax filing from “McDonald’s”, signed by the local store manager and you need to enforce, against whom do you enforce?**
 - ❖ **McDonald’s Corporation in Oak Brook, IL?**
 - ❖ **The local franchisee, whose name you have never obtained?**
 - ❖ **The local store manager?**
 - ❖ **Ronald McDonald?**



Why Is All of This Important ... for the Taxpayer and for Local Tax Officials?

➤ Some examples of problems:

- **“Don Johnson Magic Clean Co.” files for a business license, using SSN 123-45-6789. The application is signed by Ron Johnson. Who is your taxpayer?**
 - ❖ **Don Johnson Magic Clean Co.?**
 - ❖ **Don Johnson, who lives down the road in your county?**
 - ❖ **Don Johnson from Miami Vice?**
 - ❖ **Ron Johnson?**
 - ❖ **Magic Johnson?**



Why Is All of This Important ... for the Taxpayer and for Local Tax Officials?

➤ Some examples of problems:

- **“Adam & Eve’s Unlimited Apples Limited” files for a business license, using IRS Tax ID Number 98-7654321. The application is signed by Adam N. Eden. Who is your taxpayer?**
 - ❖ **Adam N. Eden?**
 - ❖ **Eve N. Eden?**
 - ❖ **Adam & Eve’s Unlimited Apples Limited?**
 - ❖ **Apple Computer Inc.**



Conclusion

- To establish a business, **OWNERS** should (where applicable):
 - choose business **structure** (type impacts paperwork, ownership, benefits, liability for taxes, etc.)
 - obtain **EIN** (little reason not to)
 - **register** with **SCC**
 - file “**fictitious name**” with **Court**
 - provide written **authority** for non-owner, -officer, -director, -member **signatories**
 - keep **up-to-date** on records & filings
- Failure: may result in **personal liability**
- To accurately identify a business, **LOCALITIES** should obtain (where applicable):
 - exact **legal** name of entity
 - **structure** type of business (provide specific check boxes)
 - IRS taxpayer ID No. (**EIN**)
 - **SCC** corporate ID no.
 - copy of **fictitious filing**
 - **authorized signature** / title
- Failure: may result in **inability to enforce/collect tax**

A female veterinarian with blonde hair, wearing blue scrubs and a stethoscope, is smiling and holding a small brown rabbit. The image is framed by a gold border.