# How to Form Your Business in 5 Simple Steps



#### STEP 1: CHOOSE THE RIGHT ENTITY TYPE

LLC, S-Corp, or C-Corp? Your choice impacts taxes, liability, and how you pay yourself.

Speak with a financial professional or attorney first to make sure you're choosing the right structure for your goals.

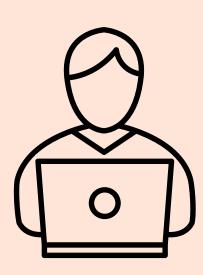
Contact info at the bottom for a consultation.

### STEP 2: PICK A BUSINESS NAME

Check availability in your state and make sure you're not infringing on any trademarks.

✓ Search your state's business registry and <a href="https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks">https://www.uspto.gov/trademarks</a>





#### STEP 3: FILE WITH YOUR STATE

Anyone can form an entity through their state's Secretary of State or Department of State website. However — filing is just the start.

- **All entities** are required to have internal formation documents like an Operating Agreement (for LLCs) or Bylaws (for Corporations). These aren't provided by the state and not everyone knows how to create them properly.
- Some states (like NY, AZ, NE) require you to publish a legal notice in a local newspaper when forming certain types of entities (usually LLCs).

Save time and avoid mistakes — use a professional to handle your filing and provide customized legal documents. Contact info at the bottom for a consultation.

#### STEP 4: DRAFT YOUR INTERNAL DOCUMENTS

This is what makes your business real in the eyes of banks, courts, and the IRS.

Required documents typically include:

- Operating Agreement (LLC)
- Bylaws (Corporation)
- Organizational Resolutions
- Ownership Terms

Without these, you risk legal and tax problems down the road.





## STEP 5: APPLY FOR YOUR EIN (EMPLOYER ID NUMBER)

Your business's tax  $\mbox{ID}$  — required to open bank accounts, hire employees, and file taxes.

✓ Free from the IRS: <a href="https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online">https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online</a>

Alternatively, if you are unsure of how to do this, reach out to us.

#### STEP 6: OPEN A BUSINESS BANK ACCOUNT

Use your EIN and internal documents to open a separate business bank account and keep your finances clean and protected. Having a banking account for your entity is legally required.



Reach out to Kevin Theissen at HWC Financial

T: (802) 227-2279

E: kevin@hwcfinancial.com

A: 4532 Main Street, Manchester Center, VT 05255