

## 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

Benton County  
Bentonville, Arkansas



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

Benton County Revenue Office, Bentonville  
2308 S.E. 28th Street, Suite 15  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
Tel: 479.273.2724  
Fax: 479.273.1082  
[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

### Benton County Assessor's Office

215 E. Central Avenue  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
Tel: 479.271.1037  
Fax: 479.271.1073  
[www.co.benton.ar.us/Assessor/Default.aspx](http://www.co.benton.ar.us/Assessor/Default.aspx)

### Benton County Clerk's Office

215 E. Central Avenue, Room 217  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
Tel: 479.271.1013  
[www.co.benton.ar.us/CountyClerk/Default.aspx](http://www.co.benton.ar.us/CountyClerk/Default.aspx)

### Benton County Cooperative Extension Service

1204 S.W. 14th Street  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
Tel: 479.271.1060  
Fax: 479.271.5713  
<http://www.uaex.edu/benton/>

### Benton County Health Unit

1200 W. Walnut Street, Suite 2200  
Rogers, AR 72756  
Tel: 479.986.1300  
Fax: 479.273.1725

### City of Bentonville Bentonville City Clerk

City Hall  
117 W. Central  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
Tel: 479.271.3112  
Fax: 479.271.3105  
[www.bentonvillear.com/mayors\\_office.html](http://www.bentonvillear.com/mayors_office.html)

### City of Bentonville City Planning Department

Community Development Building  
305 S.W. A Street  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
Tel: 479.271.3126  
Fax: 479.271.5906  
[www.bentonvillear.com/planning\\_main.html](http://www.bentonvillear.com/planning_main.html)

### City of Bentonville Code Enforcement

Community Development Building  
305 S.W. A Street  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
Tel: 479.271.3107  
Fax: 479.271.5906  
[www.bentonvillear.com/code\\_enforcement\\_main.html](http://www.bentonvillear.com/code_enforcement_main.html)

### Bentonville Fire Department

800 S.W. A Street  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
Tel: 479.271.3151  
Fax: 479.271.5980  
[www.bentonvillear.com/fire\\_main.html](http://www.bentonvillear.com/fire_main.html)

## 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 205  
145 North Buchanan  
Fayetteville, AR 72701  
Tel: 479.575.5148  
<http://sbtcdc.uark.edu/>

### Small Business Administration Arkansas District Office

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: 800-646-0450  
<http://northwestarkansas.score.org>

### Bentonville/Bella Vista Chamber of Commerce

200 E. Central Avenue  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
Tel: 479.273.2841  
Fax: 479.273.2180  
[www.bbvchamber.com/](http://www.bbvchamber.com/)

### Bentonville Public Library

405 S. Main Street  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
Tel: 479.271.3192  
Fax: 479.271.6775  
[www.bentonvillear.com/library\\_main.html](http://www.bentonvillear.com/library_main.html)

### Literacy Council of Benton County

205 N.W. A Street  
Bentonville, AR 72712  
Tel: 479.273.3486  
Fax: 479.273.7545  
<http://goliteracy.org>