

# **DOING BUSINESS IN TEXAS: BUSINESS LICENSE REQUIREMENTS IN TEXAS (PART 2/4)**

## **I. TEXAS BUSINESS STATE LICENSES**

Many businesses and professions require special licenses to operate their specific types of businesses. A license is always needed for professionals like doctors, lawyers, and dentists. A license is usually necessary for occupations like cosmetologists, morticians and contractors. A license may be granted by a state, county or city agency. If you are uncertain of the status of licensing requirements for your Texas business, contact the Texas Department of Economic Development, Business Information and Referral Office. This division also has a website address that shows required permits or licenses in Texas. Each listed item is an electronic link to an information page that provides the regulatory requirements for that business. It is unlikely that your small business will need a federal license to operate.

Licenses from the federal government generally are required for business that deal with securities, firearms and use of the airwaves for transmission of information, such as television and radio, if you deal with firearms or ammunition, the consumption or sale of alcoholic beverage or tobacco, or transportation by taxi or bus service, be sure to know the licensing requirements.

## **II. LOCAL COUNTY AND CITY PERMITS**

If you plan to operate a retail or manufacturing business you will probably be required to get a permit either for construction or to open your particular type of business. There are often requirements or restrictions regarding signage, parking, or the type of business allowed in a particular area. Check with the local city and county governments regarding any special zoning ordinances and, of course, check with the Business Information and Referral Office, which should be able to tell you whether your business will likely require local permits.

## **III. ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS**

Permits often are required to conduct a business that may be regulated by a local or state government. (Permits are often required to conduct a type of business which is regulated by state or local government. Some federal agencies such the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) have state

equivalents. In Texas the state equivalent of the federal EPA is Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission. There is no state equivalent of OSHA.

Also, if you are buying an existing business, make sure you thoroughly investigate any potential environment liabilities. It is not uncommon for the buyer of an existing business to be held liable for environmental problems caused by the business previous owners. You are encouraged to contact a licensed environmental professional to perform an environmental assessment of the business. This assessment will show you any liabilities before it is too late.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

We are Business and Tax Attorneys and we can help you obtain the required business license for you to operate your business in Texas. We strive to provide our clients the highest quality of legal and tax representation in the complex area of tax law.

This alert has provided only general information and specific factual scenarios may change any conclusions that would apply.

We strongly recommend you consult a corporate and tax attorney regarding your particular case. Should you need additional information it will be our pleasure to assist you.

*Sincerely,*

*Ruben Flores, Attorney & CPA*