

Hall County Business License Department

Hall County, Georgia



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW OFTEN DO I HAVE TO OBTAIN A BUSINESS LICENSE? Your business license is issued on a calendar year basis, which means it will always expire on December 31st each year. We will mail out a renewal notice around the end of November each year. The renewal payment is due by January 1st, and can be handled by mail. Late payments are subject to penalties and interest.

MY BUSINESS DIDN'T WORK OUT, BUT I KEEP GETTING A BILL FROM YOU, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO? If for *whatever* reason your business closes, or if you relocate to another county or city, **YOU MUST CONTACT US** (770-531-6815) so that we can remove your business from our records. If you do not contact us, we have no way of knowing you have closed or moved your business. Otherwise, you will continue to receive a bill, and it will accrue interest and penalties monthly, and be subject to a citation (fine) of up to \$1,000.00

I HAVE ADDED A PARTNER OR INCORPORATED MY BUSINESS – DO I NEED TO LET YOU KNOW? Yes. When the ownership of your business changes due to adding a partner, deleting a partner, or you incorporate your business by registering it with the Secretary of State, legally you have changed the ownership. Your business license is NOT transferable from one type of ownership to another, so you will need to re-apply for a new license in the name of the new owner(s) or Corporation. **ANYTIME** there is any change of ownership in **any** way, you need to apply for a new license.

SINCE I GOT MY BUSINESS LICENSE, TELEMARKETERS WON'T LEAVE ME ALONE. HOW DID SO MANY PEOPLE GET MY PHONE NUMBER? The general information on your business license is **public record** – business name, business address, owner name, **business** phone number, and type of business. ANYONE can obtain that information. We DO NOT SELL the information, it is available at anytime during our regular business hours to anyone who asks for it. You may want to keep this in mind when applying for your business license if privacy is an issue. Any personal information taken for identification purposes only is NOT public record.

SOMEONE ELSE IS USING MY BUSINESS NAME, WHAT CAN I DO? - Having a business license doesn't mean you "own" the name you may have selected for your business. In order to "own" that name, you will need to register the name either by doing a local TRADE NAME REGISTRATION at the Hall County Clerk's Office (770-531-7025) and/or by doing a CORPORATE REGISTRATION at the Secretary of State's Office (404-656-2817).

DO I HAVE TO HAVE A LICENSE FOR A YARD SALE? Hall County defines a yard sale as: The sale of used household belongings by an individual at his principal residence or by a group of individuals combing such items for a group yard sale at one of their principal residences. Such sales may be held no more than four times in a calendar year, with each individual sale lasting no more than three consecutive days, and shall be exempt from fees. All merchandise must be the property of the person(s) holding the sale and not be purchased for the purpose of resale. If you meet the above criteria, then you will NOT need a license.

HOW DO I GET A TAX NUMBER? – If you are selling a product you will need to apply for a sales tax exemption number, which is obtained from the Georgia Department of Revenue (404-417-4490). If you need a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEI number) you apply for this thru the Internal Revenue Service (866-816-2065).

DO I NEED TO BE "BONDED" OR INSURED? While for most business types Hall County does not *require* that you insure your business, or become "bonded", it is always a good idea to protect yourself and your business by having insurance.

I WANT TO INCORPORATE MY BUSINESS – WHAT DO I NEED TO DO? Contact the office of the Secretary of State, Corporate Division at (404) 656-2817 or on-line @ georgiacorporations.org

HOW DO I GET AN ALCOHOL LICENSE? Please see separate section on alcohol licensing.