

## **BUSINESS LICENSE FAQs**

### **What happens if I don't get a license?**

#### **POSSIBLE FINES AND LEGAL ACTION**

If you are in the unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles (County) or in the cities of Malibu, Santa Clarita, or Westlake Village, and plan to start a business that requires a Business License, you must contact the Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC) and complete the steps to obtain a Business License.

Failure to obtain a Business License is a violation of Title 7 of the County Code and a misdemeanor. Continued failure to comply with the requirements of Title 7 will result in fines and possible legal action.

### **What do you mean by jurisdiction and why is it important to be aware of your jurisdiction or that of another county/city?**

Jurisdiction is the limits or territory within which the local government can exercise its authority. It is important to be aware of your jurisdiction since the location of your business determines if you are subject to the County's Business License requirements, or if you are subject to the Business License requirements of another county/city.

### **Is a Business License fee a tax?**

The County's Business License fee is neither a tax on your business nor based on your gross receipts. The fee covers the County's cost to process your application and for periodic inspections to ensure that the public's health, welfare, and safety is not adversely impacted.

### **What do you mean by unincorporated area?**

There are 88 incorporated cities within the County; however, the areas that are not part of those cities are unincorporated. More than 65 percent of the County is unincorporated County territory. For the 1 million people living in these unincorporated areas, the Board of Supervisors and County departments provide municipal services. Since there are more than 60 zip codes in the County that cross County/city boundaries, zip codes cannot always accurately indicate if your business is located in an unincorporated area or within a city with its own City Council. The list of incorporated cities can be found on the County's homepage at <http://www.lacounty.gov/government/geography-statistics/cities-and-communities>.

## How long does it take to obtain a County of Los Angeles Business License?

The time it takes to obtain a County Business License depends upon the type of Business License required. Some Business Licenses are granted immediately, while others may require the approval of County agencies, such as the Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, Department of Health Services, and Department of Regional Planning. In addition, some Business Licenses require final approval by the [Business License Commission](#).

## What is the County of Los Angeles Code that governs Business License?

Business License regulations are outlined in Title 7 of the County Code. To view Title 7, please click [here](#).

## Can I file a County of Los Angeles Business License application online?

Since County buildings are currently closed to the public during this COVID-19 emergency, there will be no in-person payments or appointments at this time. Please call (213) 974-2011, (661) 723-4492 or email us at [businesslicense@ttc.lacounty.gov](mailto:businesslicense@ttc.lacounty.gov) for assistance. You may also visit our website for updates at <https://ttc.lacounty.gov/>. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## What types of documents are required to file a County of Los Angeles Business License application?

Depending on the nature of the business activity to be conducted, you may be required to submit documents such as, seller's permit, fictitious business statement, as well as photographs, fingerprints, proof of insurance and/or special forms in addition to a Business License application.

Please contact one of our offices for more information or email us at [businesslicense@ttc.lacounty.gov](mailto:businesslicense@ttc.lacounty.gov).

<p><b>Main Office</b> Monday – Friday</p> <p>8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time (213) 974-2011</p>	<p><b>Lancaster Office</b> Monday – Friday</p> <p>8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time (661) 723-4492</p>
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**What if I have additional questions about Business License application requirements?**

For more information concerning the Business License application requirements, please contact either Business License Office during regular business hours. For Office Locations and Contact Information, please click [here](#).