



# Delaware Amends Trade Name Registration Rules

## Client Advisories

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**UPDATE:** On May 27, 2025, Delaware delayed the effective date of the new trade name registration rules from June 2, 2025 to February 2, 2026. The Delaware Division of Revenue will issue an FAQ guide prior to the extension date. In the meantime, Delaware trade name filings will continue to be handled at the applicable county.

On February 7, 2025, Delaware amended its laws relating to the registration of trade names. The amendments become effective on June 2, 2025. The changes apply to any business operating in Delaware, or any business organized in Delaware, that have or desire to obtain a tradename.

## Prior Law

Under prior law, a business operating in Delaware using a trade name, sometimes referred to as a fictitious business name or a “doing business as” name or DBA, was required to file in the Delaware counties where it conducted its business. This process frequently resulted in confusion and inconsistencies, particularly for entities organized in, but operating outside of, Delaware, under a brand name.

## Amendments

Trade name registration will now be through a centralized system managed by the Delaware Division of Revenue. This centralized filing is required for both new trade name filings and existing trade names. To avoid losing any existing trade names, businesses must register with the Division of Revenue such trade names before August 1, 2025. The Division of Revenue will start administering the new trade name registry on June 2, 2025, through [Onestop](#). As part of the trade name registration, a Delaware business license will be required. A trade name registration does not require renewal as long as the trade name is used by the business with an active business license or, as described below, a Trade Name Only License. Additional information can be found at the Delaware Division of Revenue FAQs: [Trade Names FAQ](#).

## Delaware Corporations and LLCs

For corporations and limited liability companies formed or incorporated in Delaware that do not do business in Delaware but desire a trade name in Delaware, such entities will now be required to first obtain a trade name license from the Division of Revenue before making a trade name registration. This Trade Name Only License has its own \$25 fee and is issued for a term of one year, with renewals available for a three-year term and \$75 renewal fee.

## Follow-Up

### *Register Early*

It is recommended to complete the re-registration process early. The OneStop registration window will open June 2, 2025 through August 1, 2025 for businesses to re-register their trade names. After August 1, 2025, new registrations will be accepted. Registration will be conducted on a “first-come, first-serve” basis, so delays may result in the loss of a trade name to a new filer.

### *Register*

Failure to re-register a trade name by the specified deadline will leave the name available for another entity to claim.

### *Trademarks*

Registering a trade name does not provide federal trademark protection. Establishing a trade name should be part of a comprehensive branding and intellectual property plan.

For questions about Delaware’s amended trade name registration rules, please contact **James Smith** at [jsmith@archerlaw.com](mailto:jsmith@archerlaw.com).

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## Related People



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