

## **How to Start a Business in Georgia**

## Checklist

1.	Form your business. $\square$
	1.1. Review Georgia formation options. $\square$
	Research the entity options available in Georgia and choose one that meets your needs.
	1.2. Name your business. $\square$
	Search the Georgia business name database to see if your name idea has already been
	registered.
	1.3. Get an Employer Identification Number. $\square$
	You can apply for an EIN with the IRS.
	1.4. Register your business in Georgia. □
	You can register most business types online for a filing fee of \$100.00.
	1.5. Obtain necessary permits and licenses. $\square$
	Find out which industry-specific licenses and permits you need by searching the
	Secretary of State website.
2.	Register your business for taxes. $\square$
	2.1. Register for sales and use tax. $\square$
	If your business sells goods, you will need to register for sales and use tax.
	2.2. Register for corporate income tax. $\square$
	Corporations are required to pay corporate income tax.
	2.3. Register for withholding tax. $\square$
	Employers are required to withhold taxes from employees' wages.

Hire employees and report them to the state. $\Box$	
3.1. Report new hires to the Georgia New Hire Reporting Center. $\Box$	
Employers need to report new hires to the Georgia New Hire Reporting Center within	
10 days.	
3.2. Have minors obtain a work permit. $\square$	
Employees under the age of 16 need to obtain a work permit from their school.	
3.3. Provide healthcare to employees. $\Box$	
Employers with more than 20 employees who provide healthcare coverage need to	
maintain this coverage if an employee loses theirs.	
3.4. Provide workers' compensation coverage. $\Box$	
Employers with more than three employees are required to provide workers'	
compensation coverage.	
3.5. Establish a drug-free workplace program. $\square$	
Writing up a drug-free workplace policy may qualify employers for a discount on their	
workers' compensation policy.	
3.6. Have employees complete form I-9. $\square$	
Form I-9 verifies that employees are allowed to work in the U.S.	
3.7. Display workplace posters.	
Visit the Georgia Department of Labor website to find PDF versions of workplace	
posters.	

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