

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

huge milestone for any small business. However, legal obligations aren't done once you file the incorporation/LLC paperwork.

Nellie Akalp • Jan. 06, 2016

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us



In [my previous article](#), I outlined the key details for helping your clients incorporate their businesses. Whether you incorporate or form an LLC, creating a formal business structure is a huge milestone for any small business. However, legal obligations aren't done once you file the incorporation/LLC paperwork.

Many small business owners wonder what comes next after they've formed a corporation or LLC. To help answer that question, here are the top six steps for any

newly filed corporation or LLC:

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

also need to consider any local licenses or permits. These are similar to a driver's license... they give a business permission to operate. Permits are typically given at the city or county level and include professional licenses, reseller's permits, zoning licenses, and health department permits. If you're not sure where to start, you can contact your local office or a site like [BusinessLicenses.com](https://www.BusinessLicenses.com).

3. Open a new business bank account

Once your client has their EIN, they can now apply for a business bank account. If they already had a business bank account as a sole proprietorship, they will most likely need to close that account and open a new one with the new LLC/corporation name and EIN number. As you know, keeping a strict line between personal and business accounts helps streamline the business' recordkeeping. In addition, corporations and LLCs are legally required to maintain their own books – there can't be any commingling between the finances of the business and the personal finances of the business owner.

4. File DBAs if needed

Whenever a business uses a different variation of its official name (the name filed in the LLC/incorporation formation paperwork), it needs to file a Doing Business As (DBA) with the state or county. This essentially lets the public know who is behind any business name and it's needed no matter how small the name variation is. You can file a DBA with the state or county clerk, or have an online legal filing service handle it for you. A public notice of the Fictitious Name (the DBA) – such as listing in a local newspaper - is typically required with the application.

5. Understand the compliance requirements

Running an LLC or corporation is more involved than running a sole proprietorship. Annual reports and ongoing recordkeeping are required to maintain a corporation or LLC and keep it in good standing. You can help your clients know their compliance requirements – or help them file it. Examples of

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us

trademark protection.

If you or your client chooses to apply for a trademark, it's smart to determine the availability of the name beforehand. That's because if the name should conflict with an existing mark, the application will be rejected and the application fee will be lost. Conduct a basic search first to see if anyone has a pending application with the USPTO for the mark in a similar capacity. If the results of that search are clear, then run a comprehensive name search to see if anyone is using the proposed name at the state or county level.

The bottom line is when you form an LLC or corporation, it marks the beginning of a brand new company in the eyes of the law – even if that business has already been existing for years as a sole proprietorship or partnership. Be sure to help your clients navigate the next steps to create a strong legal foundation for the years ahead.

[More Articles From Nellie Akalp.](#)

Nellie Akalp is a passionate entrepreneur, business expert and mother of four. She is the CEO of [CorpNet.com](#), a trusted resource and service provider for business incorporation, LLC filings, and corporate compliance services in all 50 states. Nellie and her team recently launched a partner program for accountants, lawyers, and business professionals to help them streamline the business incorporation and compliance process for their clients.

Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

If you have any questions or need help you can email us