

LEGAL CHECKLIST FOR STARTUPS

Starting a new business is an exciting and challenging endeavor, and navigating the legal landscape can be a daunting task. To help ensure the success of your startup, it's important to prioritize legal compliance from the outset. In this legal checklist, we'll outline the key legal considerations that startup companies should keep in mind when starting their businesses in the United States. From selecting the appropriate business structure to securing financing and complying with data privacy laws, this checklist will help you navigate the complex legal landscape of launching and operating a startup in the United States.

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CHOOSE THE RIGHT BUSINESS STRUCTURE

Decide on the appropriate business structure for your startup, whether it's a sole proprietorship, partnership, LLC, or corporation. Consider the tax implications, liability protection, and administrative requirements of each structure before making your decision.

REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS

Register your startup with the appropriate state and local authorities, obtain any necessary business licenses and permits, and register for state and federal taxes.

PROTECT YOUR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Protect your intellectual property by filing for trademarks, patents, and copyrights, and implement internal policies to safeguard trade secrets. Protect your confidential information by entering into confidentiality agreements before sharing information and make sure your company agreements include robust confidentiality terms and conditions.

DRAFT HIRING DOCUMENTS AND ESTABLISH POLICIES

Draft baseline hiring documents and policies for independent contractors and employees and make sure to comply with applicable employment laws and regulations.

DRAFT A CUSTOMER CONTRACT

Draft a customer contract for your business and include the necessary protections for your type of business. Make sure you're thoughtful about how you structure the contract to avoid unnecessary friction during the customer onboarding process.

COMPLY WITH DATA PRIVACY LAWS

Comply with data privacy laws, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA), if applicable, and implement appropriate data security measures to protect customer data.

OBTAIN INSURANCE COVERAGE

Obtain appropriate insurance coverage for your startup, such as general liability, professional liability, and property insurance, to protect against potential risks and liabilities.

STAY COMPLIANT WITH TAX LAW

Stay compliant with state and federal tax laws, including income tax, sales tax, and payroll tax requirements.

CONSULT WITH EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS

Each business is unique and has different requirements. Make sure you're consulting with experienced professionals, such as attorneys and accountants, for guidance and advice on legal and regulatory compliance, contract negotiations, tax matters and other legal matters that may be important to your type of business and may arise as you startup and grow your business!

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