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Registered agent

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A **registered agent** (also *statutory agent* or *agent for service of process*) is a person or business designated to receive legal documents and official notices on behalf of a company. In the United States every LLC and corporation must keep a registered agent with a physical address in each state where it is registered.

Founders may act as their own agent, or use a commercial registered-agent service. Compare Registered office.

Frequently asked questions

Can I be my own registered agent?

Usually yes, if you have a physical address in the state and are available there during business hours to accept legal papers.

What happens if I don't keep a registered agent?

The state can impose penalties or take the company out of good standing, and you may miss legal papers served on the company.

References

1. Launch your business . U.S. Small Business Administration. Accessed November 2026.
2. Limited liability company (LLC) . Internal Revenue Service. Accessed November 2026.

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