Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) – Practical Guidance on Filing

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Agenda

- ✤ Introduction
- What Types of Companies Need to File
- Contents and Timing of Filing
- Process of Filing
- Penalties







The Corporate Transparency Act

- The Corporate Transparency Act ("CTA") was enacted as part of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 to combat illicit activity including tax fraud, money laundering, and financing for terrorism by requiring certain entities in the United States to file a report disclosing their beneficial owners and company applicants (certain individuals who do the filings to form or register the entity).
- The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN ") issued a final rule on September 29, 2022 (the "Final Rule") implementing the reporting provisions of the CTA and has since promulgated additional regulations to amend and clarify the Final Rule.
- The CTA went into effect on January 1, 2024 and start-up companies, smaller operating businesses and certain other entities will now need to file a Beneficial Ownership Information Report ("BOI Report") with FinCEN.



Introduction

Information is Not Publicly Available

 FinCEN maintains the information that is reported in a secure, non-public database, and, given the sensitive nature of the information being reported, is authorized to disclose such information only to a statutorily defined group of governmental authorities and financial institutions in limited circumstances (basically to combat illegal activity).



Under the Final Rule, there are two groups of "**Reporting Companies**" that need to file: (1) "Domestic Reporting Companies" and (2) "Foreign Reporting Companies.

1. A **Domestic Reporting Company** is a corporation; a limited liability company; or other entity that is created by the filing of a document with a secretary of state or any similar office under the law of a state or Indian tribe.

- *Not considered to be a Domestic Reporting Company*: (1) sole proprietorships, (2) certain types of trusts, and (3) general partnerships.

2. A **Foreign Reporting Company** is a corporation, a limited liability company, or other entity that is formed under the laws of a foreign country and that is registered to do business in the United States by the filing of a document with a secretary of state or any similar office under the law of a state or Indian tribe.



Reporting Entities

Exemptions

Exempted Entities

The CTA exempts from the definition of "Reporting Company" the following 23 entities:

- 1. Securities issuers that are reporting companies;
- 2. Domestic governmental authorities;
- 3. Banks;
- 4. Domestic credit unions;
- 5. Depository institution holding companies;
- 6. Money transmitting businesses;
- 7. Brokers or dealers in securities;
- 8. Securities exchange or clearing agencies;
- 9. Other entities registered pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;
- 10. Registered investment companies and advisors;
- 11. Venture capital fund advisers;



Reporting Entities

Exemptions Continued

- 12. Insurance companies;
- 13. State-licensed insurance producers;
- 14. Entities registered pursuant to the Commodity Exchange Act;
- 15. Accounting firms;
- 16. Public utilities;
- 17. Financial market utilities;
- 18. Pooled investment vehicles;
- 19. Tax-exempt entities;
- 20. Entities assisting tax-exempt entities;
- 21. Large operating companies;
- 22. Subsidiaries of certain exempt entities; and
- 23. Inactive businesses.



Large Operating Companies

- A "large operating company" under the Final Rule is one that:
 - Employs more than 20 full time employees in the United States;
 - Has an operating presence at a physical office within the United States, and
 - Filed a federal income tax or information return in the United States for the previous year demonstrating more than \$5,000,000.00 in gross receipts or sales, as reported as gross receipts or sales (net of returns and allowances) on the entity's IRS Form 1120, consolidated IRS Form 1120, IRS Form 1120-S, IRS Form 1065, or other applicable IRS form, excluding gross receipts or sales from sources outside the United States, as determined under federal income tax principles.





- Subsidiaries
 - For a subsidiary to be exempt it must be 100% owned by exempt entities.



Reporting Entities Exemptions

- Inactive Entities
 - FinCEN describes an "Inactive Entity" as an entity that:
 - Was in existence on or before January 1, 2020;
 - Is not engaged in active business;
 - Is not owned by a foreign person, whether directly or indirectly, wholly or partially;
 - Has not experienced any change in ownership in the preceding twelve-month period;
 - Has not sent or received any funds in an amount greater than \$1,000.00, either directly or through any financial account in which the entity or any affiliate of the entity had an interest, in the preceding 12-month period; and
 - Does not otherwise hold any kind or type of assets, whether in the United States or abroad, including any ownership interest in any corporation, limited liability company, or other similar entity.



The Final Rule requires each reporting company's BOI Report to include identifying information about two categories of individuals: Beneficial Owners and Company Applicants.

- Beneficial Owners (BO) Any individual who, directly or indirectly: (i) exercises substantial control over a reporting company; or (ii) owns or controls at least 25% of the ownership interests of a reporting company.
- Company Applicants Reporting companies each have up to two Company Applicants: (1) the person who files the document creating the company or registering it to do business in the US, and (2) the person responsible for directing or controlling the filing.
 - Company applicant for existing companies Reporting companies created or registered before January 1, 2024, need not report information with respect to any company applicant.



An individual has "substantial control" over a reporting company if such person:

- i. is a senior officer;
- ii. has authority to remove or appoint any senior officer or majority of the board of directors;
- iii. directs, determines or has substantial influence over important decisions of the reporting company (i.e. entry into or termination of significant contracts, major expenditures or debt, compensation programs, etc.); or
- iv. has any form of substantial control.



"Ownership interests" includes basically any ownership interest including, equity, profits interest, options, convertible debt and any other right to acquire equity.

Individuals can own or control "**ownership interests**" through any contract, arrangement, understanding, relationship or otherwise and either directly or through another entity.



Each reporting company's initial BOI report must contain **specific**, **identifying information** about:

- 1. the reporting company itself; and
- 2. its reporting individuals (beneficial owners and company applicants).



Each reporting company's initial BOI report is required to contain the following information with respect to the reporting company itself:

- i. Full legal name;
- ii. All trade names or D/B/As;
- iii. Complete current address;
- iv. State, Tribal, or foreign jurisdiction of formation;
- v. If foreign, the State or Tribal jurisdiction where such company first registers in the U.S.; and
- vi. An Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) (including an Employer Identification Number (EIN)).



Each reporting company's initial BOI report is required to contain the following information with respect to each of its reporting individuals:

- i. Full legal name;
- ii. Date of birth;
- iii. Complete current address;
- iv. A unique identifying number (and the issuing jurisdiction) from a photo-ID document; and
- v. An image of the document from which the unique identifying number was obtained.



Instead of reporting the information on the previous slides each time a company is formed, a reporting person or entity may obtain a **"FinCEN Identifier**" by providing identifying information to FinCEN.

Once a FinCEN Identifier is obtained, a reporting individual or company may provide its **FinCEN Identifier*** (instead of its personal information) to a reporting company to be included in its BOI report filing.



Updated Reports

A reporting company is required to update its report when there is a change to previously reported information about the reporting company itself or its beneficial owners.

Corrected Reports

A reporting company is required to update its report when previously reported information was inaccurate when filed.



Timing of Initial Reports

- Existing reporting companies created or registered to do business in the United States before January 1, 2024.
 - Reports due: January 1, 2025.
- A reporting company formed from January 1, 2024 December 31, 2024.
 - Reports due 90 calendar days after formation.
- A reporting company, formed on or after January 1, 2025.
 - Reports due **30 calendar days after formation**.

The 30 and 90-day deadlines referred to above run from the time the company receives actual notice that its creation or registration is effective, or after a secretary of state or similar office first provides public notice of its creation or registration, whichever is earlier.



Timing of Updated Reports

- Updated Reports:
 - Reports due: within 30 calendar days after a change occurs.
- Corrected Reports:
 - Reports due: within 30 calendar days after the reporting company becomes aware or has reason to know of an inaccuracy.



Process of Filing

The next slides will walk you through how to:

- 1. Obtain a FinCEN Identifier for an individual; and
- 2. File a BOI Report for an entity.



Obtaining a FinCEN Identifier

STEP ONE: go to https://fincenid.fincen.gov/ and click on "Create an Account"



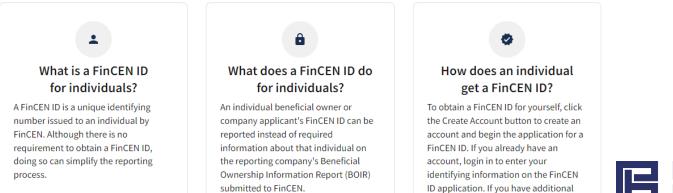
FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK

HELP FINCEN ID

A Notice: FinCEN ID site will be unavailable for scheduled maintenance on September 6th, from 8:00 PM - 12:00 AM EDT.

Welcome to the FinCEN ID Application for Individuals 1000110

Sign in or Create an Account with **ULOGIN.GOV**



questions, visit our Help Page.

Patterson Belknap



STEP TWO: click on "Sign in with LOGIN.GOV"



Sign

Sign in with 🟮 LOGIN.GOV

FinCEN.Gov/Contact

Who is Login.gov?

Login.gov is a trusted provider specializing in digital identity protection, providing users with secure access to applications. You consent to the privacy and security policies for identity and access management through Login.gov <u>Privacy and Security</u> <u>Practices | FAQ</u>







U.S. Department of the Treasury is using Login.gov to allow you to sign in to your account safely and securely.

Create an accour	nt for new users
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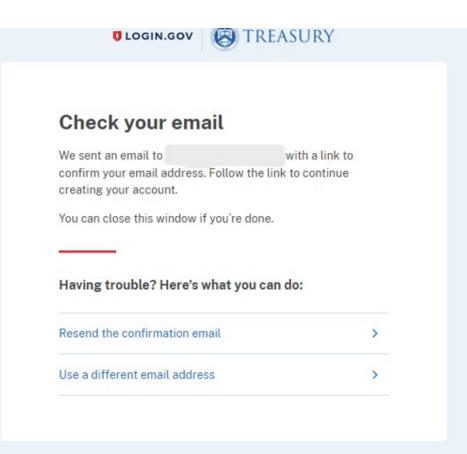
I read and accept the Login.gov Rules of Use Z

STEP THREE

- (a) Click on "Create an account"
- (b) Enter your email address
- (c) Select appropriate language
- (d) Click that you accept the Rules of Use



STEP FOUR: Once you see this screen, check your email





STEP FIVE:

- (a) Check your email and look for an email from LOGIN.GOV
- (b) Click on confirm email address in the email



LOGIN.GOV

2:49

< Inbox

Confirm your email

Thanks for submitting your email address. Please click the link below or copy and paste the entire link into your browser. This link will expire in 24 hours.

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Confirm email address

https://secure.login.gov/sign_up/email/confirm?_request_id=b1e8108a-2fd0-427a-978a-3a0dae463d5a&confirmation_token=Jsgz47_wCr-HEo6axfMuA

Please do not reply to this message. If you need help, visit login.gov/help/

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About Login.gov | Privacy policy



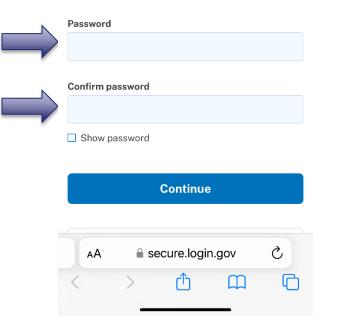
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You have confirmed your email address

Create a strong password

Your password must be **12 characters** or longer. Don't use common phrases or repeated characters, like abc or 111.





STEP SIX: once you click "Confirm email address" in step five, it will take you back to the LOGIN.GOV website where you will create a password of 12 characters or longer. Then please press "Continue"



Authentication method setup

Add an additional layer of protection to your Login.gov account by selecting a multi-factor authentication method.

We recommend you select at least two different options in case you lose one of your methods.

□ 🔞 Face or touch unlock

Use your face or fingerprint to access your account without a one-time code.

□ . Authentication application

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Download or use an authentication app of your choice to generate secure codes.

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2:54 À ◄ Mail a secure.login.gov

 Text or voice message
Receive a secure code by (SMS) text or phone call.

🔲 🔗 Security key

Connect your physical security key to your device. You won't need to enter a code.

□ ♣ Backup codes

A list of ten codes you can print or save to your device. Because backup codes are easy to lose, choose this option only as a last resort.

Continue

Cancel account creation

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Help 🖄 Contact 🖄 Privacy & security 🖄 Accessibility statement 🖄

STEP SEVEN: choose an Authentication method and press continue





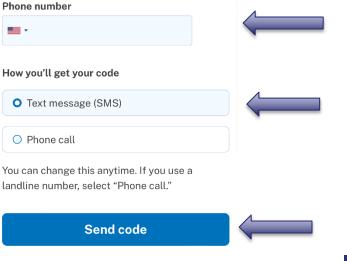
Add a phone number

We'll send you a one-time code each time you sign in.

Message and data rates may apply. Do not use web-based (VOIP) phone services or premium rate (toll) phone numbers.

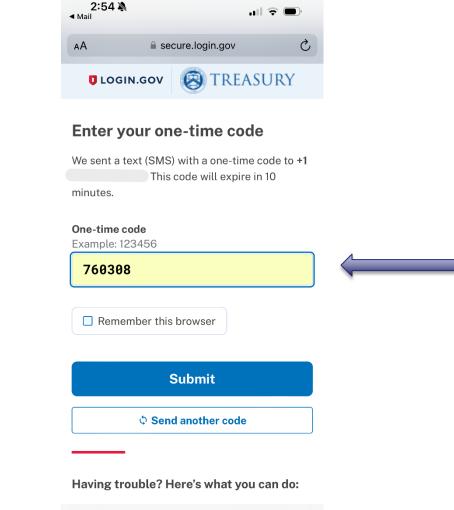
This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the

STEP EIGHT: if you chose a text method, enter your phone number to receive a one-time code and press "Send code"



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STEP NINE: enter the Onetime code and press "Submit"





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STEP TEN: either choose another authentication method or press "Skip for now" to continue



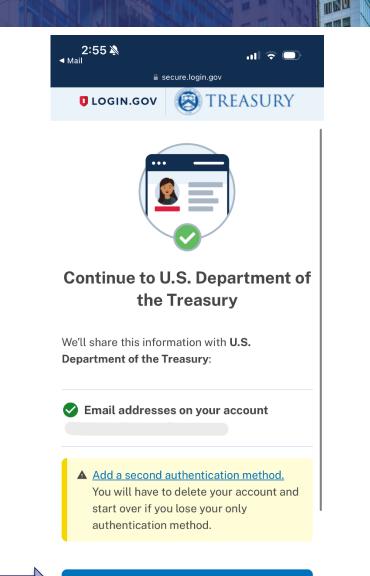


You've added your first authentication method! Add a second method as a backup.

Adding another authentication method prevents you from getting locked out of your account if you lose one of your methods.







Agree and continue



STEP ELEVEN: press "Agree and continue"



FINCEN ID HELP LOG OUT

A Notice: FinCEN ID site will be unavailable for scheduled maintenance on September 6th, from 8:00 PM - 12:00 AM EDT.

FinCEN Identifier (FinCEN ID) Application

OMB No. 1506-0076

Files must provide information in EVERY field marked with the * symbol in ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. Files must also provide information in all fields not marked with the * symbol that are applicable to the filer. For example, the "Middle Name" field is not marked with a * symbol; the filer MUST provide information in that field IF the relevant individual's legal name includes a middle name. Notwithstanding any other instruction, individuals must provide all information required pursuant to 31 CFR 1010.380(b).

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STEP TWELVE:

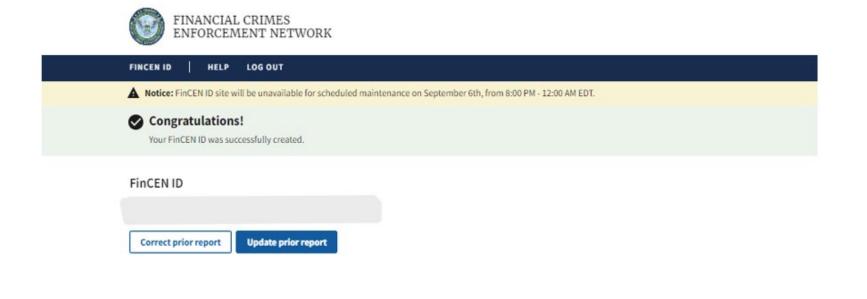
Fill in:

- (a) your first and last name,
- (b) your date of birth,
- (c) your address,
- (d) select an
 - identifying document (and upload such
 - document), and
- (e) click "I agree"



STEP THIRTEEN: you will then receive your FinCEN Identifier

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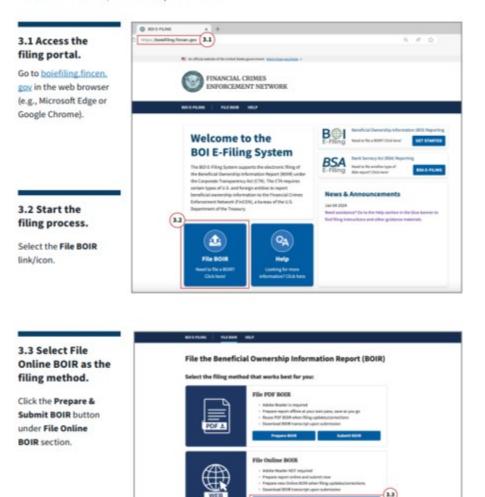
The following slides are the instructions from FinCEN on how to file a BOI Report.



3. Accessing the BOIR E-Filing System

The BOIR can be submitted as a PDF or online through a web browser.

To file the online BOIR, follow the steps outlined below.





4. Filling Out the Form



The selected tab is highlighted in blue.

Navigate to a different part of the online BOIR either by clicking the corresponding tab or by clicking the **Next** button in the bottom right corner.

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4.2 Use tabs to navigate the online BOIR.

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 Filing Information
Reporting Company
Company Applicant(s)
Beneficial Owner(s)
Submit



4.3 Complete the Filing Information tab.

Complete all required red asterisk (*) fields under the Filing Information tab.

4.3a 'Type of Filing

Under the Filing Information tab, select the type of filing you wish to make. Only one option can be selected:

- Initial report
- Correct prior report
- Update prior report
- Newly exempt entity

When Initial Report is selected, no further information is required in this section.

When Correct Prior Report, Update Prior Report, or Newly Exempt Entity is selected, fields are activated for Legal Name, Tax identification type, and Tax identification number. Complete these fields with the reporting company information from the company's most recently filed prior BOIR.

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4.3b Date Prepared

The Date Prepared field is automatically filled with the current date.



4.3c Next Button

Click the Next button



4.4a Request to Receive FinCEN ID

Select **Request to receive FinCEN ID** to receive a unique FinCEN identifier for the reporting company. The FinCEN identifier will be provided in the submission confirmation details provided to the filer directly after the BOIR is submitted/accepted.

4.4b Foreign Pooled Investment Vehicle

Select the Foreign pooled investment vehicle option if the reporting company is a foreign pooled investment vehicle. If this option is selected, Company Applicant Information is no longer required and is cleared/disabled.

In addition, only one (1) beneficial owner, must be reported under the **Beneficial Owner(s)** tab in this situation.

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*

4.4 Complete the Reporting Company tab (1 of 3).

UNB



4.4 Complete the Reporting Company tab (2 of 3).

4.4c "Name and Alternate Name(s)

Complete the fields under the Legal name and alternate name(s) section as applicable.

4.4d Add Alternate Name

To add more than one alternate name for the reporting company, click the **Add Alternate Name** button to add additional alternate reporting company names. Up to 99 alternate names can be added.

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4.4e 'Tax Identification Type

Select the **Tax identification type** dropdown menu. EIN, SSN/ITIN, or Foreign may be selected. If the Foreign option is selected, the **County/Jurisdiction** field is enabled and required.

NOTE: An EIN or SSN/ITIN is required unless a foreign reporting company does not have one. In that case, the foreign reporting company may report its foreign tax identification number and the issuing jurisdiction.



4.4f 'Jurisdiction of Formation or First Registration

Select the Country/Jurisdiction of formation dropdown menu.

If:	then:
United States is selected	State of formation and Tribal jurisdiction of formation fields appear. One of these fields must be completed.
a U.S. Territory is selected	State of formation field appears and is automatically populated with that U.S. Territory.
a foreign country is selected	State of first registration and Tribal jurisdiction of first registration fields appear. One of these fields must be completed.

4.4 Complete the Reporting Company tab (3 of 3).

4.4g 'Current U.S. Address

Complete all fields under the **Current U.S. address** section. Select U.S. or U.S. Territory from this dropdown menu. If United States is selected, the State dropdown must be completed. If U.S. Territory is selected, the State field is automatically populated with that U.S. Territory.

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4.4h Next Button

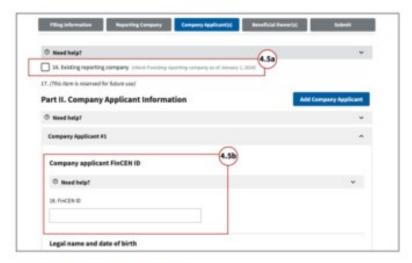
Click the Next button.

4.5 Complete the Company Applicant(s) tab (1 of 4). Complete all required red asterisk (*) fields under the Company Applicant(s) tab.

4.5a Existing Reporting Company

Select the Existing reporting company checkbox if the reporting company was created or registered before January 1, 2024.

NOTE: When Existing reporting company is selected, Company Applicant Information is no longer required, and the fields under this tab are cleared and disabled.



4.5b Company Applicant FinCEN ID

If the company applicant has a 12-digit **FinCEN ID**, enter it in the FinCEN ID field. After a valid FinCEN ID has been entered, all remaining fields for the company applicant will be cleared and disabled.





4.5c 'Legal Name, Date of Birth and Current Address

If you do not enter a FinCEN ID, enter the company applicant's information in the Legal name and date of birth and Current address sections.

NOTE: For a company applicant who forms or registers entities in the course of their business, report the street address of such business. Report the residential address of other company applicants.

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O Business Address O Resid	ential Address			
25. Address (number, street, and a	ept. or suite no.)		*36. City	
27. Country/Jurisdiction	*28. State		*29. 209/Foreign postal o	ade
	V Select a state			

4.5 Complete the Company Applicant(s) tab (2 of 4).



4.5 Complete the Company Applicant(s) tab (3 of 4).

4.5d 'Form of Identification and Issuing Jurisdiction

If you do not enter a FinCEN ID for a company applicant, enter the company applicant's information under the Form of identification and issuing jurisdiction section.

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12. Identifying document issuing jurisdiction			
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4.5e "Identifying Document Image

If you do not enter a FinCEN ID for a company applicant, attach an image of an acceptable identifying document for the company applicant.

Identifying document image guidelines:

- The image must be a complete, clear and readable image of the page or side of the identifying document containing the unique identifying number and other identifying data. Only one file must be attached.
- · Supported formats are JPG/JPEG, PNG, and PDF.
- Maximum file size: 4MB.





4.5g Add Company Applicant

After providing the required information for a company applicant, click the Add Company Applicant button to add an additional company applicant if required.

An additional company applicant section (i.e., Company Applicant #2) will be added under the first company applicant section (i.e., Company Applicant #1). Click the Remove company applicant button to remove a company applicant. 4.5 Complete the Company Applicant(s) tab (4 of 4).

NOTE: Reporting companies may be required to report up to two company applicants.

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Company applicant FinCEN ID	
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4.6 Complete the Beneficial Owner(s) tab (1 of 3).

Complete all required red asterisk (*) fields under the Beneficial Owner(s) tab.

4.6a Beneficial Owner FinCEN ID

If applicable, enter the 12-digit FinCEN ID of the beneficial owner. After a valid FinCEN ID has been entered, the **Parent/Guardian information instead of minor child checkbox** will remain available to select. All other fields in the **Beneficial Owner(s)** tab will be cleared and disabled.

NOTE: Refer to the <u>Small Entity Compliance Guide</u> at <u>fincen.gov/boi</u> for additional information for special reporting situations.

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4.6b "Name, Date of Birth and Current Address

If you do not enter a FinCEN ID for a beneficial owner, enter the beneficial owner's information in the Legal name and date of birth and Residential address sections.

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4.6c 'Form of Identification and Issuing Jurisdiction

4.6 Complete the Beneficial Owner(s) tab (1 of 3).

If you do not enter a FinCEN ID for a beneficial owner, enter information about the beneficial owner's identification document under the Form of identification and issuing jurisdiction section.

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4.6d 'Identifying Document Image

Attach an image of an acceptable identifying document for the beneficial owner. See <u>2.2 Confirm documentation requirements</u> for a list of acceptable identifying documents.

Identifying document image guidelines:

- The image must be a complete, clear and readable image of the page or side of the identifying document containing the unique identifying number and other identifying data. Only one file must be attached.
- · Supported formats are JPG/JPEG, PNG, and PDF.
- Maximum file size: 4MB.



4.6e Next Button

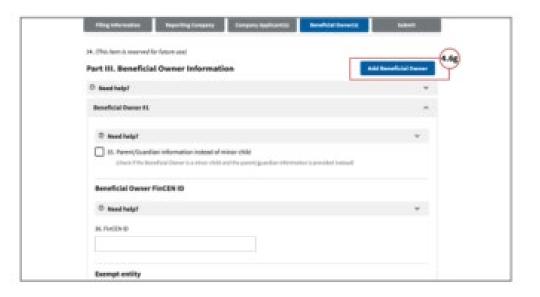
Click the Next button.

4.6 Complete the Beneficial Owner(s) tab (3 of 3).

4.6g Add Beneficial Owner

After providing the required information for a beneficial owner, click the Add Beneficial Owner button to add additional beneficial owners as needed.

NOTE: There is no limit to the number of beneficial owners that may be reported. However, the BOIR limits the number of beneficial owners to 99.





5. Review and Submission

5.1a 'Form Authorization

Under the Submit tab, complete all required red asterisk (*) fields.

5.1b 'Certifications

Select the I agree checkbox indicating that you certify that all information is true, correct and complete.

Agreeing to the certification will validate all fields. The system will display an error message if any required fields are missing, or these fields contain invalid entries.

The I agree checkbox will remain unselected, and you will have to correct the displayed errors before selecting I agree again.

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5.2a 'Human Verification

Before submitting the BOIR, you must select the hCaptcha checkbox labeled I am human. When prompted, select the appropriate images to verify you are not a robot. 5.2 Certify and submit the form.

5.2b Submit BOIR Button

Click the Submit BOIR button.





5.1 Review the form.

Penalties

- The CTA lays out both civil and criminal penalties for persons who:
 - "willfully provide, or attempt to provide, false or fraudulent beneficial ownership information... to FinCEN"; or
 - "willfully fail to report complete or updated beneficial ownership information to FinCEN."
- Civil Penalties: are established up to \$500 each day a violation continues or has not been remedied.
- **Criminal Penalties**: may be fined up to \$10,000, imprisoned for up to two years, or both.





- State Laws: New York (and some other states) have passed their own transparency laws which need to be complied with separately.
- New York Transparency Law

New York's Corporate Transparency Law is similar to the Federal Law with the following differences:

- It only applies to LLCs.
- The earliest reporting date will be January 1, 2026, for entities formed on or after that date, and Jan. 1, 2027, for entities formed or qualified prior to Jan. 1, 2026.
- If an LLC is exempt from filing, it still needs to file a certification claiming its exemption.
- Less stringent penalties.



Conclusion

Dates to Remember:

- Existing reporting companies BOI Reports due: January 1, 2025.
- Reporting companies formed from January 1, 2024 December 31, 2024 BOI Reports due 90 calendar days after formation.
- Reporting companies created or registered on or after January 1, 2025 BOI Reports due **30 calendar days**.



QUESTIONS:

Does anyone have any questions on the materials presented?

For any future questions, please contact Legal Aid at:

Phone: (212) 298-3340 Email: <u>communitydevproject@legal-aid.org</u>





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