

See SCORE Before Hiring a Lawyer

We recommend to entrepreneurs starting a new business that before you spend money to consult with a lawyer, you avail yourself of the free counseling services provided by your local SCORE Chapter. SCORE counselors provide for free many of the services that would normally be performed by a lawyer for a substantial fee. SCORE counseling is provided at no cost to you by experienced business people who specialize in helping entrepreneurs start new businesses successfully. Some of these services of SCORE, which are also typically provided by a lawyer, include the following:

- Advice and assistance in choosing and forming an appropriate legal structure for your business, e.g. sole proprietor, Limited Liability Company (LLC), or corporation.
- Advice and assistance in registering a fictitious business name.
- Advice and assistance in obtaining from the IRS a federal tax ID Number, called an Employer's Identification Number (EIN).
- Advice and assistance in filing with the PA Department of Revenue, PA form 100, Enterprise Registration, required for collecting state sales tax on sales made within the State of Pennsylvania.
- Advice and assistance on many other practical issues related to starting a new business that many lawyers may not be familiar with, because they are not strictly "legal" matters. For example,
- Advice and assistance in obtaining appropriate general liability insurance coverage for your business.
- Advice and assistance in setting up an appropriate accounting system.
- Advice and assistance in formulating an effective business plan.
- Advice and assistance in obtaining financing for your business.

SCORE counselors can provide much valuable assistance for free. You don't have to worry about asking them the right questions, because they know the right questions to ask you. If it turns out that you should consult with a lawyer, your SCORE counselor can help you find one qualified to provide you the assistance you require.