

# Journey to 501(c)(3) Status: A Written Guide

- If you answered “NO” to “is the organization created for a charitable, religious, educational, scientific, or literary purpose?”, you CANNOT register as a 501(c)(3).
- If you answered “YES” to “is the organization created for a charitable, religious, educational, scientific, or literary purpose?”, but organization's earnings DOES personally benefit a private shareholder or private person, you CANNOT register as a 501(c)(3).
- If you answered “YES” to “is the organization created for a charitable, religious, educational, scientific, or literary purpose?”, and NONE of the organization's earnings personally benefit a private shareholder or private person, but the substantial goal of the organization IS TO INFLUENCE LEGISLATION, you CANNOT register as a 501(c)(3).
- If you answered “YES” to “is the organization created for a charitable, religious, educational, scientific, or literary purpose?”, and none of the organization's earnings personally benefit a private shareholder or private person, and the goal is to NOT INFLUENCE legislation, but the organization DOES participate in a political campaign activity or endorsing for against a political candidate, you CANNOT register as a 501(c)(3).
- If you answered “YES” to “is the organization created for a charitable, religious, educational, scientific, or literary purpose?”, and none of the organization's earnings personally benefit a private shareholder or private person, and the goal is to NOT INFLUENCE legislation, and the organization DOES NOT participate in a political campaign activity or endorsing for against a political candidate, you MAY BE ABLE TO register as a 501(c)(3).