

Sole Proprietorship

DEFINITION

- A business owned and controlled by an individual, a company or a limited liability partnership. There are no partners in the business.

LEGAL STATUS

- Not a separate legal entity from the business owner.
- Business owner has unlimited liability for all debts and obligations of the sole proprietorship.
- Business can sue or be sued in the owner's name.

ELIGIBILITY

- Individuals must be at least 18 years old.
- Individuals must be a Singapore Citizen, Singapore Permanent Resident, or an EntrePass/Employment Pass Holder.
- An authorised representative who is ordinarily resident in Singapore must be appointed if the business owner is not resident in Singapore.

FEES

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|--------------------|-------|
| • Name Application | \$15 |
| • Registration | \$100 |
| • Renewal | \$30 |

Partnership

DEFINITION

- A business owned by at least 2 partners, up to a maximum of 20 partners. The partner can be an individual, a company or a limited liability partnership.

LEGAL STATUS

- Not a separate legal entity from the business owners.
- Partners have unlimited liability and are personally liable for all debts and losses of the partnership.
- Partnership can sue or be sued in the partners' names.

ELIGIBILITY

- Individuals must be at least 18 years old.
- Individuals must be a Singapore Citizen, Singapore Permanent Resident, or an EntrePass/Employment Pass Holder.
- An authorised representative who is ordinarily resident in Singapore must be appointed if the business owner is not resident in Singapore.

FEES

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| • Name Application | \$15 |
| • Registration | \$100 |
| • Renewal | \$30 |

Limited Partnership (LP)

DEFINITION

- A partnership consisting of a minimum of 2 partners, with at least 1 general partner and 1 limited partner. There is no limit to the maximum number of partners.

LEGAL STATUS

- Not a separate legal entity from the partners.
- Cannot sue or be sued in its own name.
- A general partner is liable for all debts and obligations of the LP.
- A limited partner's liability is capped at the amount of his agreed investment in the LP.

ELIGIBILITY

- A general partner can be an individual or a company and can take part in the management of the LP.
- A limited partner can be an individual, a company or an unregistered foreign company and shall not take part in the management of the LP.
- A local manager must be appointed if all general partners are not ordinarily resident in Singapore.
- All individuals must be at least 18 years old and must not be an undischarged bankrupt.

FEES

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|----------------------------|-------|
| • Name Application | \$15 |
| • Registration for 1-year | \$100 |
| • Registration for 3-years | \$160 |

Limited Liability Partnership(LLP)

DEFINITION

- An LLP is a partnership with at least 2 partners, where the individual partner's own liability is generally limited.

LEGAL STATUS

- A separate legal entity from its partners and can sue or be sued in its name.
- Can engage in acts and things in its name, as bodies corporate may lawfully do and suffer.
- Partners of LLP will not be held personally liable for any business debts incurred by the LLP, unless for claims from losses resulting from their own wrongful act or omission.

ELIGIBILITY

- An LLP must have at least two partners. A partner can be an individual, a local company, a foreign company or another LLP.
- Every LLP must appoint at least one manager who is ordinarily resident in Singapore.
- All individuals must be at least 18 years old and must not be an undischarged bankrupt.

FEES

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| • Name Application | \$15 |
| • Registration | \$100 |

Company

DEFINITION

- A company is a legal entity formed by an individual or a group of individuals to engage in and operate a business.

LEGAL STATUS

- A separate legal entity from its members.
- Can sue or be sued in its name.
- Can engage in acts and things in its name, as bodies corporate may lawfully do and suffer.
- Members have limited liability and are not personally liable for debts and losses incurred by the company.

KEY OFFICERS

A company:

- Must have at least one director who is at least 18 years old and ordinarily resident in Singapore.
- Must have at least one shareholder.
- Must appoint a secretary who is locally resident in Singapore within 6 months from incorporation.
- Must appoint an auditor within 3 months of incorporation, unless it is exempted from audit requirements.
- May choose to appoint a Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director to manage and oversee the company's business.

FEES

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| • Name Application | \$15 |
| • Registration | \$300 |

Types of Companies

PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

**Maximum of
50 shareholders**

EXEMPT PRIVATE COMPANY

**Maximum of
20 shareholders**

**No corporation is
a shareholder**

PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

**May have more
than 50
shareholders**

**May raise capital by
offering shares or
debentures to the
public**

**Must register a
prospectus with the
MAS before making
any public offers**

PUBLIC COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

**Has members
instead of
shareholders.**

**Usually formed to
carry out non-profit
making activities
such as promoting
arts, etc.**
