



Walker County Business License FAQ

Why is a business license needed?

The primary purpose of the business license is to provide a frequently requested service to our business community. It makes the process of starting a business in Walker County more straightforward.

The Small Business Administration, financial planners like Dave Ramsey and others all advise this step, since a business license is required to complete many start-up functions. Many new business owners have faced frustration and confusion when trying to prove their existence to vendors, financial institutions, insurance agencies and others who may require proof of business before being able to assist them with services.

What are the benefits to the community?

Along with offering benefits to business owners, consumers will now be able to see which businesses are following the rules and which are not. Licensing will also provide more accurate economic development data to help recruit industry. This is data not currently available in the community, because it's unclear just how many businesses and skilled workers exist.

Is this common in other cities and counties?

Yes. Every city within Walker County requires businesses to have a business license, many of which have had this requirement in place for several decades.

If my business is located within the city, do I need to apply for the county license?

If you only do business in that city, then no. If you do business in the unincorporated areas of Walker County, then yes.

What are the rates for this license?

There is a nominal fee based on the number of employees, which is similar to how other cities and counties have structured their business license rates. There is a one-time, administrative set-up fee of \$25, along with the following annual rates:

- 0-5 employees = \$50
- 6-10 employees = \$75
- 11-25 employees = \$100
- 26-49 employees = \$125
- 50+ employees = \$150

Do I need a license for a non-profit organization?

No. You do not need a license if the organization has a 501(c) form from the Internal Revenue Service.



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Are licenses transferrable?

No. If the business changes ownership, a new license must be issued.

I operate a short-term vacation rental. Do I need a license?

In most cases, yes. If you are subject to the county's Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance, you need a license. You can review the ordinance at walkercountyga.gov

I have a side hustle selling make-up, kitchen items, etc. Do I need a license?

Hobby activities, as defined under Title 26 (Internal Revenue Service) of the Code of Federal Regulations § 1.183-2, activity not engaged in for profit. See Form E-2 for Walker County Occupation Tax Registration Exemption for additional information.

I want to operate a business out of my home. Is a business license all I need to get started?

All businesses are required to comply with applicable Zoning Ordinances. Check with the Planning and Zoning Office to review the zoning of your property to see if you would be allowed to operate a business at that location.