

August 25, 2021

**New York Nonprofits:  
Check Your Corporate Information in the Department of State's New Database**

The New York Department of State (DOS) has a new online, publicly available database containing a wealth of information about the corporate status and history of New York nonprofit corporations. Previously, this information was available only by calling or e-mailing DOS. Now, any New York nonprofit corporation can easily find a list of all corporate filings throughout the life of the corporation, a list of the current and any past legal names of the corporation, and any assumed names.

Recommended actions

New York nonprofit corporations should search for their corporation's entry in DOS' Corporation and Business Entity Database, <https://apps.dos.ny.gov/publicinquiry/>, and check:

- Click on "Filing History" – do you have a copy of the original Certificate of Incorporation and all amendments or restatements?** If not, consider ordering them from DOS to ensure that your corporate records are complete. For instructions see <https://dos.ny.gov/faqs-corporations-business-entities> (scroll down to "Not-for-Profit Corporations").
- Are the corporation's current activities consistent with the purposes clause of the Certificate of Incorporation and any amendments to that certificate?** If not, consult an attorney about whether your organization needs to amend the purposes clause.

*Helpful resource:* Lawyers Alliance, [Changing the Purposes Clause of a New York Not-for-Profit Corporation](#)

- Does the name that the corporation is using match either the legal name or an assumed name shown in the database?** If not, consult an attorney about whether your organization should change its name or file a certificate of assumed name.

*Helpful resource:* Lawyers Alliance, [Changing the Name of a New York Not-for-Profit Corporation](#)

Coming soon...

In the future, all users will be able to use the online database to request, pay for, and download a copy of a filed document. Currently, this feature is available only for users that have established a prepaid account with DOS (also called a drawdown account), and only with respect to filings dated 1990-present. Over time, earlier filings will be made available, too. Information about establishing a drawdown account is available at <https://dos.ny.gov/faqs-corporations-business-entities>.

DOS is also in the process of creating an e-filing system for nonprofit corporation filings. Currently, e-filing is available only to users with a drawdown account.

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**This alert is meant to provide general information only, not legal advice. If you have any questions about this alert please contact Lawyers Alliance’s Resource Call Hotline at (212) 219-1800 ext. 224 or [ResourceCall@lawyersalliance.org](mailto:ResourceCall@lawyersalliance.org), or visit our website at [www.lawyersalliance.org](http://www.lawyersalliance.org) for further information. To become a client, visit [www.lawyersalliance.org/becoming-a-client](http://www.lawyersalliance.org/becoming-a-client).**

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