***Assumed Business Name Law Changes***

***N.C.G.S. Chapter 66, Article 14A***

 effective December 1, 2017

* All new forms will continue to be filed at the local level in the Register of Deeds office: Initial Filing of Assumed Name, Amendments and Withdrawals of Assumed Names. The Register of Deeds Office will have these forms available, if needed. You can also go to Business Link NC (BLNC) website to obtain them.
* These forms allow the filing to be effective statewide or in multiple counties.
* Information filed at local level will now be compiled into online searchable database at the NC Secretary of State’s office. Once our office sends the information to the Secretary of State office, each assumed name initial filing will be issued a unique identifying number called an SOSID number. A business can have two SOSID numbers: one for the “Real” corporate name AND one for the “Assumed” business name. The database will link the two identities/filings for research purposes.
* All Amendments and Withdrawals will require the SOSID number to link them within the statewide database.
* Filings will contain a 5 year transition period.
* Pre-existing filings shall expire December 1, 2022.
* New certificates do not expire and remain effective until withdrawn. But if any existing business does not file a new certificate under the new law, they will no longer have an effective assumed business name certificate as of December 2022.
* There is no longer a requirement in the law that a name be unique in order to be registered, so it is likely that there will be identical assumed names even within the same county. The unique identifier, SOSID number, is assigned to separate them

**EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2017, *NEW FORMS DO NOT HAVE TO BE NOTARIZED***

Assumed Business Name Certificate:

* Can name up to 5 assumed business names
* Corporations, LLC’s, limited partnerships must provide the EXACT name registered with the NC Secretary of State’s office and the SOSID number assigned at the time of formation. Go to [www.sosnc.gov/br/search](http://www.sosnc.gov/br/search) to look up your information.
* If you want all 100 counties, you must check the box on line 6 or enter what counties you will be engaging business in.

Amendment of Assumed Business Name Certificate:

* Amendment only applies to one (1) assumed name per form.
* Business entities must provide exact name & SOSID number.
* Book and Page number of initial filing is required.
* Filer must check all boxes that apply.
* New information must be provided including whether it is added, deleted or changed.

Withdrawal of Assumed Name Certificate:

* One (1) assumed name may be withdrawn per filing.
* Name of one real person or entity required.
* Current address is required regardless of what is on previous filings.
* Initial filing Book/Page is required (does not require Amendment Book/Page)
* SOSID number for assumed business name is required.
* Filers may show a future effective date of withdrawal on form.