



Fictitious Name vs. Trade Name

Which one do I file?

A Fictitious Name:

- Is filed by an incorporated entity, such as an **LLC, Business Corporation, or Non-Profit**.
- Is a **required filing** when an incorporated entity uses an alternate name to conduct business in RI.
- Allows an entity to conduct business **throughout Rhode Island** using a different name than the entity's legal name.
- Costs **\$50.00** for profit entities to register and **\$20.00** for non-profits.
- **Does not** need to be renewed each year.
- Remains associated with the entity it is registered to until abandoned, so long as the entity remains in good standing with the RI Department of State and does not dissolve.

Fictitious name availability is limited by the names that are already incorporated/qualified and in good standing with the **State of Rhode Island**.

A Trade Name:

- Is a business name that is typically registered for use by an **unincorporated entity** such as a **Sole Proprietor**.
- Does not create a legal entity separate from its owner(s).
- Is sometimes referred to as a **"DBA"**.
- Allows a person or multiple people to conduct business in **one of Rhode Island's 39 municipalities** using a name other than their own.
- Costs **\$20.00** to register.
- Can be involuntarily cancelled for failure to renew during the **annual renewal period of Sept. 1st - Nov. 30th**.

Trade name availability is limited by the trade names that are already registered in the **city or town** of registration.

Scan the QR codes below with your mobile device to learn more.




Add a **Fictitious Business Name** to an existing incorporated entity




Register a **Trade Name**

Questions? Contact us!

 401-222-3040

 corporations@sos.ri.gov

 sos.ri.gov

 148 W. River Street,
Providence RI 02904