

Incorporated vs. Unincorporated Businesses

A simplified look at key differences.

Unincorporated
Trade Name

Adventurer Jane



- Doing business as "Adventurer Jane,"
 Jane conducts a mission to recover hidden treasure from a cave.
- Jane has personal risk of injury.
- If Jane were to be injured during the mission or give up before it was completed, the mission would be over.
- Jane can ask people for help and additional resources to complete the mission based only on her reputation, or she can attempt to reach the goal using only the supplies she has on hand.

Unincorporated businesses include:

- Sole Proprietorships
- General Partnerships

These are commonly referred to as "DBAs" (doing business as).



Robot Missions Inc.



- Doing business through Robot Missions Inc., Jane uses a remote-controlled robot to recover hidden treasure from a cave.
- Jane is safe from injury while the robot travels through the cave. If the robot gets damaged, Jane will not be personally injured.
- If Jane decides to quit running the mission, someone else can take over the controls.
- The robot may attract the attention of sponsors that will provide resources to help the mission reach its goal.

Incorporated businesses include:

- Limited Liability Companies (LLCs)
- Business Corporations
- Limited Partnerships (LPs and
- LLPs) Non-Profit Corporations



This information is offered as a public service and should not be used as a substitute for professional advice. There are many factors that should be taken into consideration when choosing a business structure, most of which aren't listed here. This decision should be made after careful deliberation and with the advice of a qualified attorney and/or CPA.

Go to sos.ri.gov/divisions/business-services to learn more.