

eForms

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Your submission will be reviewed for legal compliance and you will receive an email with an approval or a notice to correct your submission.

If you prefer submitting this form via mail or in person, fill out the [Submission Cover Sheet](#) and attach it to your filing. Note: In person submissions require an additional \$15 handling fee.

Instructions for Completing the Articles of Incorporation of a Close Corporation (Form ARTS-CL)

To form a close corporation in California, you must file Articles of Incorporation with the California Secretary of State.

- A “close corporation” means a corporation, including a close social purpose corporation, whose Articles of Incorporation include a provision that all of the corporation’s issued shares of all classes will be held of record by not more than a specified number of persons, not exceeding 35.
- Form ARTS-CL has been created for ease in filing, however, you can compose your own document, provided it meets statutory requirements
- Before submitting the completed form, you should consult with a private attorney for advice about your specific business needs and whether additional article provisions for the corporation are needed.
- Please note, once filed, all information contained within this form (**including addresses**) is a public record and is accessible by the general public.

Fees:

- **Filing Fee:** The fee for filing Articles of Incorporation of a Close Corporation is **\$100.00**.
- **Faster Service Fee:**
 - Counter and guaranteed expedite services are available only for documents *submitted in person (drop off) to our Sacramento office*.
 - **Counter Drop Off:** A separate, non-refundable **\$15.00** counter drop off fee is required if you submit in person (drop off) your completed document at our Sacramento office. The \$15.00 counter drop off fee provides priority service over documents submitted by mail. The special handling fee is not refundable whether the document is filed or rejected.
 - **Guaranteed Expedite Drop Off:** For more urgent submissions, documents can be processed within a guaranteed timeframe for a non-refundable fee instead of the counter drop off fee. For detailed information about this faster processing service through our Preclearance and Expedited Filing Services, go to www.sos.ca.gov/business/be/service-options.

Copies: Upon filing, we will return one (1) plain copy of your filed document for free, and will certify the copy upon request and payment of a \$5 certification fee. To obtain additional copies or certified copies of the filed document, include payment for copy fees and certification fees at the time the document is submitted. Additional copy fees are \$1.00 for the first page and \$0.50 for each additional page. For certified copies, there is an additional \$5.00 certification fee, per copy.

Payment Type: Check(s) or money orders should be made payable to the Secretary of State. **Do not send cash by mail.** If submitting the document in person in our Sacramento office, payment also may be made by credit card (Visa or Mastercard®).

Processing Dates: For current processing dates, go to www.sos.ca.gov/business/be/processing-dates.

If you are not completing this form online, please **type or legibly print** in black or blue ink. **Complete the Articles of Incorporation of a Close Corporation (Form ARTS-CL) as follows:**

Item	Instruction	Tips
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter the name of the proposed corporation exactly as it is to appear on the records of the California Secretary of State. • The name of a close corporation must include the word “corporation,” “incorporated,” or “limited” or an abbreviation of one of those words. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are legal limitations on what name can be used for the corporation. For general corporation name requirements and restrictions or for information on reserving a corporation name prior to submitting Form ARTS-CL, go to www.sos.ca.gov/business/be/name-reservations. • A preliminary search of corporation names already of record can be made online through our Business Search at BusinessSearch.sos.ca.gov. Please note: The Business Search is only a preliminary search and is not intended to serve as a formal name availability search. For information on checking or reserving a name, go to www.sos.ca.gov/business/be/name-reservations. • A name reservation is not required to submit Form ARTS-CL.

2a.	Enter the complete street address , city, state and zip code of the corporation's initial address.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The complete street address is required, including the street name and number, city, state and zip code. • Address must be a physical address. • Do not enter a P.O. Box address, an "in care of" address, or abbreviate the name of the city.
2b.	If different from the address in Item 2a, enter the corporation's initial mailing address.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This address will be used for mailing purposes and may be a P.O. Box address or "in care of" an individual or entity. • Do not abbreviate the name of the city.
3.	<p>The corporation must have an Agent for Service of Process.</p> <p>There are two types of Agents that can be named:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an individual (e.g. officer, director, or any other individual) who resides in California with a physical California street address; OR • a registered corporate agent qualified with the California Secretary of State. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Agent for Service of Process is responsible for accepting legal documents (e.g. service of process, lawsuits, other types of legal notices, etc.) on behalf of the corporation. • You must provide information for either an individual OR a registered corporate agent, not both. • If using a registered corporate agent, the corporation must have a current agent registration certificate on file with the California Secretary of State as required by Section 1505.
3a & b.	<p>If Individual Agent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter the name of the initial agent for service of process and the agent's complete California street address, city and zip code. • If an individual is designated as the initial agent, complete Items 3a and 3b ONLY. Do not complete Item 3c. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The complete street address is required, including the street name and number, city and zip code. • Do not enter a P.O. Box address, an "in care of" address, or abbreviate the name of the city. • Many times, a small corporation will designate an officer or director as the agent for service of process. • The individual agent should be aware that the name and the physical street address of the agent for service of process is a public record, open to all (as are all the addresses of the corporation provided in filings made with the California Secretary of State.)

3c.	<p>If Registered Corporate Agent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter the name of the initial registered corporate agent <i>exactly</i> as registered in California. • If a registered corporate agent is designated as the initial agent, complete Item 3c ONLY. Do not complete Items 3a and 3b. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before a corporation is designated as agent for another corporation, that corporation must have a current agent registration certificate on file with the California Secretary of State as required by Section 1505 stating the address(es) of the registered corporate agent and the authorized employees that will accept service of process of legal documents and notices on behalf of the corporation. • Advanced approval must be obtained from a registered corporate agent prior to designating that corporation as your agent for service of process. • No California or foreign corporation may register as a California corporate agent unless the corporation currently is authorized to engage in business in California and is in good standing on the records of the California Secretary of State. • Provide your Registered Corporate Agent's exact name as registered with the California Secretary of State. To confirm that you are providing the exact name of the Registered Corporate Agent, go to https://businessfilings.sos.ca.gov/frmlist1505s.asp. • A corporation cannot name itself as agent.
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter the number of shares the corporation is authorized to issue. • Do not leave blank or enter zero (0). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The corporation must authorize at least 1 share but can authorize any number of shares. • This form only may be used for a single class of shares. If the corporation needs a multiple share structure, you must compose your own Articles of Incorporation. • Before shares of stock are sold or issued, the corporation must comply with the Corporate Securities Law of 1968 administered by the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation. For more information, go to dfpi.ca.gov or call the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation at (866) 275-2677.
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter the number of shareholders the corporation is authorized to have. The number must not exceed 35. • Do not leave blank or enter zero (0). 	
6.	The purpose statement is required. Do not alter.	
7.	Form ARTS-CL must be signed by each incorporator.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you need more space for signatures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Place the additional signatures on only one side of a standard letter-sized piece of paper (8 1/2" x 11") clearly marked as an attachment to Form ARTS-CL and attach the extra page(s) to the completed Form ARTS-CL. – All attachments are part of this document. • Multiple Form ARTS-CLs with different signatures will be returned without being filed – use only one form. • Do not include the title of the person signing.

Legal Authority: General statutory filing provisions are found in Sections [158](#) and [200-202 et seq.](#) All statutory references are to the California Corporations Code, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of Information: A Statement of Information must be filed with the California Secretary of State within 90 days **after** filing the Articles of Incorporation and **every year** thereafter during the [applicable filing period](#) (Section [1502](#)). A Statement of Information can be filed online at bizfile.sos.ca.gov or by submitting Form SI-550.

Minimum Tax Requirement: Most corporations must pay a minimum tax of \$800 to the California Franchise Tax Board each year. (California Revenue and Taxation Code section [23153](#).) For more information, please refer to the California Franchise Tax Board's Guide for Corporations Starting Business in California (FTB Publication 1060) at <https://www.ftb.ca.gov/forms/misc/1060.html>.

Additional Resources: For a list of other agencies you may need to contact to ensure proper compliance, go to www.sos.ca.gov/business/be/resources. Note: The California Secretary of State does not license corporations. For licensing requirements, please contact the city and/or county where the principal place of business is located and/or the state agency with jurisdiction over the activities of the corporation.



Secretary of State
Articles of Incorporation of a
Close Corporation

ARTS-CL

IMPORTANT — [Read Instructions](#) before completing this form.

Filing Fee – \$100.00

Copy Fees – First page \$1.00; each attachment page \$0.50;
 Certification Fee - \$5.00

Note: Corporations may have to pay a minimum \$800 tax to the California Franchise Tax Board each year. For more information, go to fb.ca.gov.

This Space For Office Use Only

1. Corporate Name (The name **must** include the word “Corporation,” “Incorporated,” or “Limited” or an abbreviation of one of those words. Go to www.sos.ca.gov/business/be/name-reservations for general corporate name requirements and restrictions.)

The name of the corporation is _____

2. Business Addresses (Enter the **complete** business addresses. Item 2a cannot be a P.O.Box or “in care of” an individual or entity.)

a. Initial Street Address of Corporation - Do not enter a P.O. Box	City (no abbreviations)	State	Zip Code
b. Initial Mailing Address of Corporation, if different than item 2a	City (no abbreviations)	State	Zip Code

3. Service of Process (Must provide either Individual **OR** Corporation.)

INDIVIDUAL – Complete Items 3a and 3b only. Must include agent’s full name and California street address.

a. California Agent’s First Name (if agent is not a corporation)	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
b. Street Address (if agent is not a corporation) - Do not enter a P.O. Box	City (no abbreviations)	State CA	Zip Code

CORPORATION – Complete Item 3c. Only include the name of the registered agent Corporation.

c. California Registered Corporate Agent’s Name (if agent is a corporation) – Do not complete Item 3a or 3b

4. Shares (Enter the **number of shares** the corporation is authorized to issue. **Do not** leave blank or enter zero (0).)

This corporation is authorized to issue only one class of shares of stock.

The total number of shares which this corporation is authorized to issue is _____.

5. Number of Shareholders (Enter the **number of shareholders** the corporation is authorized to have. The number **must not exceed 35**. **Do not** leave blank or enter zero (0).)

This corporation is a **Close Corporation**. All of the corporation’s issued shares of stock, of all classes, will be held of record by not more than _____ persons.

6. Purpose Statement (Do not alter the Purpose Statement.)

The purpose of the corporation is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which a corporation may be organized under the General Corporation Law of California other than the banking business, the trust company business or the practice of a profession permitted to be incorporated by the California Corporations Code.

7. Read and Sign Below (This form must be signed by each incorporator. [See Instructions](#). Do not include a title.)

Signature

Type or Print Name