

URGENT ALERT!

***Renew your Missouri Fictitious Name Registration by August 28
or you may lose it***

March 2009

Under Missouri law, business owners that operate under a name other than their true name are required to register assumed or “fictitious” names with the Missouri Secretary of State. For example, an individual doing business as “John’s Repair,” or a corporation whose official legal name is “ABC, Inc.” that does business in the name of “The Computer Wizards,” would be required to file their business names as fictitious names under Missouri law. If your Company, however, is only operating under its official, legal name (the name listed in its articles of incorporation for a corporation or in its articles of organization for an LLC), you need not file or renew and will continue to be able to operate under such name for the duration of your company’s existence.

Prior to August 28, 2004, a fictitious name filing with the state was perpetual. Beginning August 28, 2004, fictitious names expire five (5) years after their filing. Fictitious names on file prior to August 28, 2004 expire August 28, 2009 unless renewed.

Renewal of a fictitious name is a simple process that may be done either in paper or electronic form with the Secretary of State. The renewal fee is nominal (\$7.00).

Although the Secretary of State issued a press release stating that the office would send reminders to all fictitious name holders with expiration date and renewal information, in many instances the original fictitious name registration was filed many years ago (some as early as 1919!) and it is likely that many of the addresses on file with the Missouri Secretary of State are inaccurate.

If you or your company has filed a fictitious name registration and wishes to continue to do business using that name, please be sure to renew the registration. If you do not receive a notice from the Missouri Secretary of State in the next few weeks, we can help you identify your fictitious name filings and can assist in the renewal process if you so desire. Please give us a call.

