

TaxViews

A tax periodical for the non-profit community

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Beneficial Ownership Reporting *Latest Update*

The saga surrounding the Beneficial Ownership Information (“BOI”) reporting requirements continues...

On February 18, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas granted FinCEN a stay order on its previously issued preliminary nationwide injunction on the enforcement of the Corporate Transparency Act (“CTA”).

Therefore, BOI reporting requirements are now mandatory. The new filing deadline, for most non-exempt entities, to file a BOI report is March 21, 2025.

As we previously reported, the Corporate Transparency Act expanded anti-money laundering laws and created new reporting requirements for certain companies doing business in the United States. In an effort to create a national database for use by national security and law enforcement agencies to prevent the use of shell companies for criminal activity, organizations will be required to report information about their beneficial owners to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (“FinCEN”). Generally speaking, the requirement applies to corporations, limited liability companies, limited partnerships, and any entity whose existence is created by a filing with the Secretary of State.

Included within the CTA are twenty-three types of entities **exempt** from beneficial ownership information reporting requirements. **These exemptions include, but are not limited to, certain tax-exempt entities, subsidiaries of certain exempt entities, and certain large operating companies among others.**

- Tax-exempt organizations recognized in Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”) Section 501(c) and exempt from tax under IRC Section 501(a) are not considered a reporting company under the CTA and are exempt from filing. However, if an IRC Section 501(c) organization loses its tax-exempt status, it becomes a reporting company 180 days after the loss of that status and will be required to report unless covered by another exemption. It is recommended that organizations with a revoked tax status seek legal counsel.
- A political organization, as defined in section 527(e)(1) of the IRC, that is exempt from tax under section 527(a) of the IRC.

- A trust described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 4947(a) of the IRC. (Charitable trusts, split interest trusts).
- Subsidiaries of a tax-exempt entity are exempt from reporting. A subsidiary of a tax-exempt organization is an entity whose ownership interests are controlled or wholly owned, directly or indirectly by one or more tax-exempt entities.
- Large operating companies are also exempt. These are companies that employ more than twenty (20) full-time employees in the United States, have an operating presence at a physical office in the United States, and filed a federal income tax or information return in the United States demonstrating more than \$5,000,000 in gross receipts or sales in the previous year.

If not covered by an applicable exemption, an organization is required to report its legal name, any trade and dba names, its principal place of business address, its jurisdiction of formation, and its taxpayer identification number. In addition, the organization must report the legal name, date of birth, residential address and a unique number from an acceptable document for each beneficial owner.

Failure to comply with BOI reporting requirements can result in significant penalties, including fines of up to \$10,000 and potential criminal liability.

If applicable, reports must be filed electronically. FinCEN's e-filing portal, available at <https://boiefiling.fincen.gov/>, provides two methods to submit a report: (1) by filling out a web-based version of the form and submitting it online, or (2) by uploading a completed PDF version of the report. Some third-party service providers may also offer the ability to file the Beneficial Ownership Information (“BOI”) report through their software. There is no fee for filing the report.

FinCEN has issued a guide for small businesses to understand compliance and reporting. This information can be found at: <https://www.fincen.gov/boi/small-entity-compliance-guide>. In addition, FinCEN will provide an update before March 21 of any further modification of this deadline, recognizing that reporting companies may need additional time to comply with their BOI reporting obligations.

We are not attorneys, and we do not practice law, therefore we strongly recommend any organization reviewing the applicability and reporting of the Beneficial Ownership Information reports in connection with the CTA to consult with legal counsel.

This bulletin is prepared by our tax department and is provided to our clients for informational purposes only and may not be used or cited as precedent. If you have any questions on the information contained in this bulletin, please do not hesitate to give us a call.

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