

## FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT



## LEGAL DOCS BY ME FRANCHISING, INC.

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The franchise offered is for the establishment and operation of a business providing legal document preparation services and legal documents and other related products and services to the public under the Legal DOCS by ME Mark and System within a defined territory.

The estimated total investment necessary to begin operation of a Legal DOCS by ME franchise is from \$188,000 to \$247,800. This includes \$99,500 that must be paid to the franchisor or affiliate.

This disclosure document summarizes certain provisions of your franchise agreement and other information in plain English. Read this disclosure document and all accompanying agreements carefully. You must receive this disclosure document at least 14 calendar-days before you sign a binding agreement with, or make any payment to, the franchisor or an affiliate in connection with the proposed franchise sale. **Note, however, that no governmental agency has verified the information contained in this document.** 

You may wish to receive your disclosure document in another format that is more convenient to you. To discuss the availability of disclosures in different formats, contact Ira Distenfield at Legal Docs by ME, 73-241, Highway 111, Palm Desert, California 92260 and (760) 341-4666.

The terms of your contract will govern your franchise relationship. Don't rely on the disclosure document alone to understand your contract. Read all of your contract carefully. Show your contract and this disclosure document to an advisor, like a lawyer or an accountant.

Buying a franchise is a complex investment. The information in this disclosure document can help you make up your mind. More information on franchising, such as "A Consumer's Guide to Buying a Franchise," which can help you understand how to use this disclosure document, is available from the Federal Trade Commission.

You can contact the FTC at 1-877-FTC-HELP or by writing to the FTC at 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. You can also visit the FTC's home page at www.ftc.gov for additional information. Call your state agency or visit your public library for other sources of information on franchising.

There may also be laws on franchising in your state. Ask your state agencies about them.



## STATE COVER PAGE

Your state may have a franchise law that requires a franchisor to register or file with a state franchise administrator before offering or selling in your state. REGISTRATION OF A FRANCHISE BY A STATE DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE STATE RECOMMENDS THE FRANCHISE OR HAS VERIFIED THE INFORMATION IN THIS DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT.

Call the state franchise administrator listed in Exhibit A for information about the franchisor, or about franchising in your state.

MANY FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS DO NOT ALLOW YOU TO RENEW UNCONDITIONALLY AFTER THE INITIAL TERM EXPIRES. YOU MAY HAVE TO SIGN A NEW AGREEMENT WITH DIFFERENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE YOUR BUSINESS. BEFORE YOU BUY, CONSIDER WHAT RIGHTS YOU HAVE TO RENEW YOUR FRANCHISE, IF ANY, AND WHAT TERMS YOU MIGHT HAVE TO ACCEPT IN ORDER TO RENEW.

Please consider the following RISK FACTORS before you buy this franchise:

- 1. THIS NEW FRANCHISOR HAS BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR SUCH A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME THAT ITS FRANCHISES ARE A HIGHER RISK INVESTMENT THAN FRANCHISORS WITH A LONGER-TERM OPERATING HISTORY.
- 2. THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT REQUIRES THAT MOST DISAGREEMENTS BE SUBMITTED TO ARBITRATION IN CALIFORNIA. OUT-OF-STATE ARBITRATION MAY FORCE YOU TO ACCEPT A LESS FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT FOR DISPUTES. IT MAY ALSO COST YOU MORE TO MEDIATE, ARBITRATE OR LITIGATE WITH US IN CALIFORNIA THAN IN YOUR HOME STATE.
- 3. THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT STATES THAT CALIFORNIA LAW GOVERNS THE AGREEMENT, AND THIS LAW MAY NOT PROVIDE THE SAME PROTECTIONS AND BENEFITS AS LOCAL LAW. YOU MAY WANT TO COMPARE THESE LAWS.
- 4. FRANCHISOR IS A NEW COMPANY, FORMED ON FEBRUARY 15, 2019, THEREFORE, THERE IS NO OPERATING HISTORY TO ASSIST YOU IN JUDGING WHETHER TO INVEST IN THIS BUSINESS.
- 5. YOU MAY NOT GIVE LEGAL ADVICE, AS THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW IS PROHIBITED.
- 6. THE LEGAL DOCUMENT PREPARATION BUSINESS MAY BE CHALLENGED BY THE STATE BAR ASSOCIATION OR OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES IN YOUR STATE. THE LEGAL DOCUMENT PREPARATION BUSINESS MAY BE DETERMINED TO BE THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW IN YOUR STATE AND THEREFORE ILLEGAL.
- 7. IN SOME STATES, INCLUDING CALIFORNIA, LEGAL DOCUMENT ASSISTANT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR THOSE WHO, FOR COMPENSATION, ASSIST THE PUBLIC IN FILING LEGAL PAPERS FOR ANY SELF-HELP SERVICE FOR MEMBERS OF



THE PUBLIC REPRESENTING THEMSELVES IN A LEGAL MATTER. IN ORDER TO REGISTER AS A LEGAL DOCUMENT ASSISTANT IN CALIFORNIA, AN APPLICANT MUST PRESENT A BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 NAMING THE REGISTRANT AS PRINCIPAL, SATISFY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS AS LISTED ON THE APPLICATION FOR LEGAL DOCUMENT ASSISTANT AND PROVIDE SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTATION.

- 8. ALL THE OWNERS OF THE FRANCHISE MAY BE REQUIRED TO EXECUTE PERSONAL GUARANTEES, THIS REQUIREMENT PLACES THE MATERIAL ASSETS OF SPOUSES AT RISK IF YOUR FRANCHISE FAILS.
- 9. WE DO NOT HAVE A FEDERAL REGISTRATION FOR OUR PRINCIPAL TRADEMARK. THEREFORE, OUR TRADEMARK DOES NOT HAVE AS MANY LEGAL BENEFITS AND RIGHTS AS A FEDERALLY REGISTERED TRADEMARK. IF OUR RIGHT TO USE THE TRADEMARK IS CHALLENGED, YOU MAY HAVE TO CHANGE TO AN ALTERNATIVE TRADEMARK WHICH MAY INCREASE YOUR EXPENSES.

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