

## FRANCHISE DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT



Zounds Hearing Franchising, LLC an Arizona limited liability company 9365 S. McKemy Street, Suite 105 Tempe, Arizona 85284 (480) 813-8400 (602) 813-8400 Fax www.zoundshearing.com

We offer franchises for the right to independently own and operate a retail hearing aid business that (a) offers and sells a proprietary line of hearing aid devices, and (b) offers and provides related hearing screening and device fitting services, all while utilizing our proprietary mark ZOUNDS and operating system (each, a "Center"). The typical and standard franchise offered under this Disclosure Document expects that you will serve as the owner and the operator of the franchised Center and obtain the licensure/permits necessary to become the licensed hearing aid dispenser for your Center.

The total investment necessary to begin operation of a single Zounds Hearing Center where you will be the owner and licensed hearing aid dispenser ranges from \$144,200 to \$214,450, which includes \$77,000 and \$82,000 that must be paid to the franchisor or its affiliate.

This Franchise 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 for you. To discuss the availability of disclosures in different formats, contact Jamile Dean Essa at 9365 S. McKemy Street, Suite 105, Tempe, Arizona 85284 and (480) 813-8400.

The terms of your contract will govern your franchise relationship. Do not rely on the Franchise Disclosure Document alone to understand your contract. Read your entire 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-FTCHELP or by writing to the FTC at 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 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.

The Issue Date of this Disclosure Document is April 15, 2016, as amended May 20, 2016



## 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 OR HAS VERIFIED THE INFORMATION IN THIS DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT.

Call the state franchise administrator listed in Exhibit C 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. THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT REQUIRES YOU TO RESOLVE DISPUTES WITH US BY MEDIATION (AT OUR OPTION) OR LITIGATION ONLY IN ARIZONA. OUT OF STATE MEDIATION/LITIGATION MAY FORCE YOU TO ACCEPT A LESS FAVORABLE SETTLEMENT FOR DISPUTES. IT MAY ALSO COST YOU MORE TO MEDIATE AND/OR LITIGATE WITH US IN ARIZONA THAN IN YOUR OWN STATE.
- 2. THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT REQUIRES THAT ARIZONA 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.
- 3. THE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT YOU MUST SELL A MINIMUM OF 150 HEARING AIDS AT YOUR FRANCHISED BUSINESS IN YOUR SECOND FULL YEAR OF BUSINESS AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER.
- 4. IF YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL, YOUR SPOUSE MUST SIGN A PERSONAL GUARANTY. IF THE FRANCHISEE IS A BUSINESS ENTITY, EACH OF THE ENTITY'S OWNERS, PARTNERS, MEMBERS, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, TRUSTEES AND BENEFICIARIES (AS APPLICABLE), AS WELL AS THEIR RESPECTIVE SPOUSES, MUST SIGN A PERSONAL GUARANTY. THOSE WHO SIGN A PERSONAL GUARANTY WILL BE JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY LIABLE FOR ALL DEBTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE FRANCHISEE WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION OF THE FRANCHISE BUSINESS. THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL ALSO HAVE THEIR PERSONAL ASSETS AT RISK.
- 5. THERE MAY BE OTHER RISKS CONCERNING THIS FRANCHISE.

We use the services of one or more FRANCHISE BROKERS or referral sources to assist us in selling our franchise. A franchise broker or referral source represents us, not you. We pay this person a fee for selling our franchise or referring you to us. You should make sure to do your own investigation of the franchise.



## STATE EFFECTIVE PAGE

The following states require that the Franchise Disclosure Document be registered or filed with the state, or be exempt from registration: California, Florida, Hawaii, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

This Franchise Disclosure Document is registered, on file or exempt from registration in the following states having franchise registration and disclosure laws if an effective date is noted below for the state:

State	Effective Date	
California	Pending Registration	
Florida (exemption)	Effective	
Hawaii	Pending Registration	
Illinois	May 27, 2016	
Indiana	January 31, 2016	
Kentucky	Effective	
Maryland	Pending Registration	
Michigan	Effective	
Minnesota	Pending Registration	
Nebraska	Effective	
New York	Pending Registration	
North Dakota	Pending Registration	
Rhode Island	Pending Registration	
South Dakota	April 18, 2016	
Texas	Effective	
Utah (exemption)	Effective	
Virginia	Pending Registration	
Washington	Pending Registration	
Wisconsin	Pending Registration	

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