



MD Debt Settlement Services Provider Registration New Application Checklist (Company)

CHECKLIST SECTIONS

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Who Is Required to Have This Registration?

This registration is required for any person providing debt settlement services to a consumer residing in Maryland. Debt settlement services are defined under Md. Code Ann., Fin. Inst. ("FI") §12-1001(d) as: "...any service or program represented, directly or by implication, to renegotiate, settle, reduce, or in any way alter the terms of payment or other terms of a debt between a consumer and one or more unsecured creditors or debt collectors, including a reduction in the balance, interest rate, or fees owed by a consumer to an unsecured creditor or debt collector." A debt settlement services provider is defined under FI §12-1001(g) as: "a person that provides or offers to provide debt settlement services for a consumer regardless of whether the person provides the debt settlement services on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis."

See Md. Code Ann., [Fin. Inst. §12-1001 et seq](#) for more information.

Activities Authorized Under This Registration

This license authorizes the following activities...

- Debt settlement/debt adjuster
- Debt negotiation

Pre-Requisites for License Applications

- None

MD does issue paper registrations for this registration type.

Document Uploads Guidance

Documents that must be uploaded to the *Document Uploads* section of the Company Form (MU1) in NMLS are indicated in the checklist below. When uploading documents:

- Follow the guidance in [Document Upload Descriptions and Examples](#).
- Only upload documents relevant to the company application.

- Only upload documents where there is a selectable document category. If inappropriate documents are uploaded that should not be, you will be contacted by your regulator and asked to remove them from NMLS.
- Do not upload the same company documents multiple times. Generally, unless the document is state-specific, if the document has already been uploaded for another state, a new upload is not required unless changes have been made.
- If a document previously uploaded has been revised, delete the old document and replace it with the new document (history of the old document will remain in NMLS).
- For state-specific documents (e.g., Surety Bonds), be sure to indicate the applicable state.

Helpful Resources

- [Company Form \(MU1\) Filing Instructions](#)
- [Document Upload Descriptions and Examples](#)
- [Individual Form \(MU2\) Filing Quick Guide](#)
- [Financial Statements Quick Guide](#)
- [Payment Options Quick Guide](#)
- [License Status Definitions Quick Guide](#)

Agency Contact Information

Contact Maryland Commissioner of Financial Regulation licensing staff by phone at (410)230-6100 or toll free at 888-784-0136 or send your questions via email to finreg.licensing@maryland.gov for additional assistance.

For U.S. Postal Service or Overnight Delivery:

*Maryland Commissioner Of Financial Regulation
Attention: Licensing Unit
500 N. Calvert St., Suite 402
Baltimore, MD 21202*

THE APPLICANT/LICENSEE IS FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LICENSE FOR WHICH THEY ARE APPLYING. THE AGENCY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE FOR GUIDANCE ONLY TO FACILITATE APPLICATION THROUGH NMLS. SHOULD YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONSULT LEGAL COUNSEL.

LICENSE FEES - Fees collected through NMLS are NOT REFUNDABLE OR TRANSFERABLE.

Complete	MD Debt Settlement Services Provider Registration	Submitted via...
<input type="checkbox"/>	MD License/Registration Fee: \$400 NMLS Initial Processing Fee: \$0	NMLS (Filing submission)

REQUIREMENTS COMPLETED IN NMLS

Complete	MD Debt Settlement Services Provider Registration	Submitted via...
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submission of Company Form (MU1): Complete and submit the Company Form (MU1) in NMLS. This form serves as the application for the license/registration through NMLS.	NMLS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Other Trade Name: If operating under a name that is different from the applicant's legal name, that name ("Trade Name", "Assumed Name" or "DBA") must be listed under the <i>Other Trade Names</i> section of the Company Form (MU1). MD does not limit the number of other trade names.</p> <p>If operating under an "Other Trade Name", upload proof of registration of the trade name with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation. This document should be named <i>MD Debt Settlement Services Provider Trade Name – Assumed Name</i>.</p>	NMLS Upload in NMLS: under the Document Type <u>Trade Name/Assumed Name Registration Certificates</u> in the <i>Document Uploads</i> section of the Company Form (MU1).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resident/Registered Agent: The Resident Agent must be listed under the <i>Resident/Registered Agent</i> section of the Company Form (MU1) (if applicable) and must match the information currently on record with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation.	NMLS
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Primary Contact Employees: The following individuals must be entered into the <i>Contact Employees</i> section of the Company Form (MU1).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Company Contact. Primary Consumer Complaint Contact. 	NMLS
Note	Non-Primary Contact Employees: MD does not require any non-primary contacts to be listed in the <i>Contact Employees</i> section of the Company Form (MU1).	N/A
Note	Bank Account: Bank account information is not required. The <i>Bank Account</i> section of the Company Form (MU1) can be left blank.	N/A

Note	Qualifying Individual: The <i>Qualifying Individual</i> section is not required to be completed for MD on the Company Form (MU1).	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Control Person (MU2) Attestation: Complete the Individual Form (MU2) in NMLS. This form must be attested to by the applicable control person before it is able to be submitted along with the Company Form (MU1).	NMLS

Note	Credit Report: Individuals in a position of control are NOT required to authorize a credit report through NMLS.	N/A
Note	MU2 Individual FBI Criminal Background Check Not Required Through NMLS: Direct Owners/Executive Officers, Indirect Owners, and Qualifying Individuals are NOT required to authorize a FBI criminal background check (CBC) through NMLS.	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Electronic Surety Bond: Electronic Surety Bond via NMLS in the amount of \$50,000 furnished and submitted by a surety company authorized to conduct business in Maryland.</p> <p>See the ESB Adoption Table and the ESB for NMLS Licensees page of the NMLS Recourse Center for more information.</p> <p>Note: Surety bonds submitted via the <i>Document Uploads</i> section will not satisfy this requirement.</p>	Electronic Surety Bond in NMLS

REQUIREMENTS/DOCUMENTS UPLOADED IN NMLS		
Complete	MD Debt Settlement Services Provider Registration	Submitted via...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Business Plan: Upload a business plan outlining the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing strategies • Products • Target markets • Fee schedule • Operating structure the applicant intends to employ. <p>This document should be named <i>[Company Legal Name] Business Plan</i>.</p> <p>Note: If the existing uploaded business plan already includes the above information, an additional document does not need to be uploaded. A company should only upload a single business plan. If state-specific material is required, this information should be added to the existing uploaded business plan.</p>	<p>Upload in NMLS: under the Document Type <u>Business Plan</u> in the <i>Document Uploads</i> section of the Company Form (MU1).</p>

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Certificate of Authority/Good Standing Certificate: Upload a State-issued and approved document (typically by the Secretary of State’s office), dated not more than 60 days prior to the filing of the application through NMLS that demonstrates authorization to do business in the applicant’s state of formation</p> <p>This document should be named <i>[State prefix] Certificate of Authority OR [State prefix] Certificate of Good Standing</i>.</p>	<p>Upload in NMLS: under the Document Type <u>Certificate of Authority/Good Standing Certificate</u> in the <i>Document Uploads</i> section of the Company Form (MU1).</p>
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<input data-bbox="142 928 180 968" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Formation Documents: Determine classification of applicant’s legal status and submit a State certified copy of the requested applicable documentation detailed below. Original formation documents and all subsequent amendments, thereto including a list of any name changes.</p> <p>Sole Proprietor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No documents required <p>Unincorporated Association:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By-Laws or constitution (including all amendments). <p>General Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership Agreement (including all amendments). <p>Limited Liability Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Limited Liability Partnership; and • Partnership Agreement (including all amendments). <p>Limited Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Limited Partnership; and • Partnership Agreement (including all amendments). <p>Limited Liability Limited Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Limited Liability Limited Partnership; and • Partnership Agreement (including all amendments). <p>Limited Liability Company (“LLC”):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles of Organization (including all amendments); • Operating Agreement (including all amendments); • IRS Form 2553 or IRS Form 8832 if S-corp treatment elected; and • LLC resolution if authority not in operating agreement. <p>Corporation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles of Incorporation (including all amendments); • By-laws (including all amendments), if applicable; • Shareholder Agreement (including all amendments), if applicable; • IRS Form 2553 if S-corp treatment elected; and • Corporate resolution if authority to complete application not in By-Laws or Shareholder Agreement, as amended, as applicable. <p>Not for Profit Corporation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documents requested of a Corporation; and • Proof of nonprofit status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) 501(c)(3) designation letter; or ○ Statement from a State taxing body or the State attorney general certifying that: (i) the entity is a nonprofit organization operating within the State; and (ii) no part of the entity’s net earnings may lawfully benefit any private shareholder or individual; or ○ Entity's certificate of incorporation or similar document if it clearly establishes the nonprofit status of the applicant; or ○ Any of the three preceding items described, if that item applies to a State or national parent organization, together with a statement by the State or parent organization that the applicant is a local nonprofit affiliate. <p>Trust (Statutory)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Trust; and • Governing instrument (all amendments). 	<p>Upload in NMLS: under the Document Type <u>Formation Document</u> in the <i>Document Uploads</i> section of the Company Form (MU1).</p> <p>This document should be named <i>Formation Documentation [Date of Creation (MM-DD-YYYY)]</i>.</p>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Management Chart: Submit a management chart displaying the registrant's directors, officers, and managers (individual name and title). Must also identify compliance reporting and internal audit structure.</p> <p>The chart should include supervisors and any debt settlement counselors or similar individuals.</p> <p>This document should be named <i>[Company Legal Name] Management Chart</i>.</p> <p>Note: If the existing uploaded management chart already includes the above information, an additional document does not need to be uploaded. A company should only upload a single management chart.</p>	<p>Upload in NMLS: under the Document Type <u>Management Chart</u> in the <i>Document Uploads</i> section of the Company Form (MU1).</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Organizational Chart/Description: Submit a chart showing (or a description which includes) the percentage of ownership of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Owners (total direct ownership percentage must equate to 100%) • Indirect Owners • Subsidiaries and Affiliates of the applicant/licensee <p>This document should be named <i>[Company Legal Name] Organizational Chart – Description</i>.</p> <p>Note: If the existing uploaded Organizational Chart/Description already includes the above information, an additional document does not need to be uploaded. A company should only upload a single management chart.</p>	<p>Upload in NMLS: under the Document Type <u>Organizational Chart/Description</u> in the <i>Document Uploads</i> section of the Company Form (MU1).</p>
INDIVIDUAL (MU2) DOCUMENTS UPLOADED IN NMLS		
No individual (MU2) documents are required to be uploaded into NMLS for this license/registration at this time.		

REQUIREMENTS SUBMITTED OUTSIDE OF NMLS		
Complete	MD Debt Settlement Services Provider Registration	Submitted via...
No items are required to be submitted outside of NMLS for this license/registration at this time.		