Land Forum

How Do I Find Contact Information for a Corporation or LLC?

This guide will help you perform a Business Entity Search online in order to find a contact person within a business that owns property.

Often, a Wayne County Register of Deeds search will reveal that the property is owned by an entity instead of an individual. The State of Michigan Business Entity Search gives you a way to find one or more human beings behind that entity. All entities doing business in Michigan are required to register with the state and provide annual status updates, including the name and address of a contact person, and occasionally a phone number. The website is operated through the state's Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) and is free to use.

Begin the search by navigating to http://www.dleg.state.mi.us/bcs_corp/sr_corp.asp. There are three search options: business name, business keyword, and business ID number. You will usually search by business name, though keyword searches may be helpful. Start by entering the business's name as it appears on the Wayne County Register of Deeds website, the deed, or the other source you have. You should leave off suffixes such as "LLC" or "Co." If the entity you are looking for does not come up initially, try playing around with using partial names or narrowing the results.

Once you find the name that best fits the entity you are looking for, click on it. You will see contact and other information about the entity on the resulting page. This corporate entity details page should provide you with a preliminary set of contact information about the property, including the name of an individual, the street address for their registered office, a mailing address, the status of the company, and where and when the company was formed.

At the bottom of this page you will see a link to "view document images." This will take you to a list of "Corporate Entity Documents" or "Limited Liability Company Documents." A look at the company's most recent annual report or other most recent document can alert you to changes in the registered agent or phone number. You may want to scan all the documents in the entity documents list, which may contain additional information about the entity you're searching. You may find old addresses or old phone numbers for the entity or its agent.

Once you have gathered all this information from the Business Entity Search website, you can double check the information by searching the company's name or the agent's name on a search engine such as Google or on a site such as www.whitepages.com to find out more information.

At this point, it is up to you or your community organization to decide how to reach out using this contact information.