

Florida Security Company Startup Checklist

Everything you need to launch a licensed guard company in Florida, from Class MB manager to first contract.

1. Decide & plan

- ☐ Decide which services you'll offer (guards, patrol, events, etc.)
- ☐ Decide armed vs. unarmed
- ☐ Sketch a simple business plan and startup budget

2. Agency manager & licensing

- ☐ Confirm your Class MB manager meets the FDACS experience requirement (or designate a Class D held 2+ years)
- ☐ Complete fingerprinting via a FDACS-approved Livescan provider
- ☐ Gather proof of qualifying experience (no company exam required in Florida)

3. Set up the business

- ☐ Choose and clear a company name (and grab the domain)
- ☐ Form your entity (corporation or LLC) with the Florida Division of Corporations (Sunbiz)
- ☐ Get a federal EIN and open a business bank account
- ☐ Obtain your local city/county business license

4. Insurance & finances

- ☐ Buy general liability insurance (\$300,000 combined single-limit minimum)
- ☐ Set up workers' comp (required in FL at 4+ employees) and commercial auto if you run patrol
- ☐ Set up payroll and overtime tracking

5. Get licensed & staffed

- ☐ Submit the Class B agency application to FDACS (\$450 license + \$50 app + \$42 fingerprint)
- ☐ Recruit your first guards
- ☐ Ensure each officer completes Class D training (40 hrs; Class G + 28 hrs firearms if armed)
- ☐ Confirm every officer is licensed by FDACS before their first shift

6. Run & grow

- ☐ Set defensible bill rates and a proposal template
- ☐ Pitch your first local clients and sign your first contract
- ☐ Set up scheduling, GPS clock-in, checkpoints, and reporting software

Guidance only, not legal advice. Verify current requirements at fdacs.gov.

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