

Who is Responsible for Your Business?

Business owners are people who invest their own money and time into their business. They get to reap the profits and suffer the losses. Since it is *their money*, they are responsible for making the hard decisions that affect the success or failure of their business.

Problems arise when owners abrogate their duties and responsibilities to someone else who is given the responsibility but not the power to make the decisions that should have been made by the owners of the business. This responsibility is usually foisted on an employee, friend, relative, attorney, CPA, or business consultant. The owners can give many interesting and reasonable sounding reasons on why they can't or won't make the hard decisions, but the truth is that *they don't wish to be responsible for their business or for themselves*. In that way, if something goes wrong they can always point the finger at something or someone else as being the reason why something bad happened to their business. In this way, they can maintain the illusion that they had nothing to do with the failure of their business.

Non responsibility can take many forms. It can be as simple as choosing the vendors with the best terms for your business, deciding whether to give customers a big discount or extended payment terms, and developing a strategic business plan for the company's future. Other examples of non responsibility including not responding in a timely manner to creditors, lawsuits or government investigations.

If you are a business owner, you are investing your time, money and effort into your idea for the business. You stand to reap the profits if the business is successful and you stand to lose your investment if the business fails. Therefore it is your responsibility to make sure that you know the overall operations of the business (e.g., making sure the business has the necessary

licenses, permits and insurance, negotiating with vendors and clients, and opening of bank accounts). You can hire employees and outside professionals to assist you with the decisions, but at the end of the day it is your responsibility. It's your money so shouldn't it be your responsibility to protect your investment?

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