

Next Step Filings Issues Consumer Advisory on Predatory Business Filing Practices

Advisory identifies warning signs of fraudulent filing services as complaints surge across multiple states and federal agencies.

GLEN ALLEN, VA, UNITED STATES, April 2, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Next Step Filings, a



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Lisa Matthews, GM and Business Compliance Advisor, Next Step Filings

compliance-first business services company based in Glen Allen, Virginia, has issued a consumer advisory to help small business owners identify and avoid predatory filing services. The advisory comes as state attorneys general and the Better Business Bureau report rising complaint volumes against companies using deceptive practices to exploit LLC owners.

"The compliance industry has a trust problem," said Lisa Matthews, General Manager and Business Compliance Advisor at Next Step Filings. "Businesses that should be protecting entrepreneurs are instead profiting from their

confusion. We felt a responsibility to speak up."

The advisory identifies five warning signs that a business filing service may be operating in bad faith:

1. No named leadership or verifiable team members. Legitimate providers stand behind their work with real names and identifiable professionals. Companies that hide behind generic contact forms and anonymous operations leave clients with no accountability.
2. No physical business address. A verifiable office location signals permanence and accountability. Filing services operating without a listed address often dissolve when complaints mount, leaving clients with no recourse.
3. Hidden or bundled pricing. Transparent providers separate state filing fees from service fees so clients understand exactly what they are paying. Predatory services bury fees in bundles, add undisclosed charges after checkout, or advertise misleadingly low prices that balloon at the point of payment.

4. Unsolicited mailers designed to resemble government notices. Multiple state agencies have issued warnings about private companies sending official-looking letters that pressure business owners into paying inflated fees for routine filings. These mailers exploit the gap between what states require and what owners understand.

5. Unresolved patterns of complaints with consumer protection agencies. A single negative review can happen to any company. Sustained patterns of billing disputes, unfulfilled services, and unresponsive support across the Better Business Bureau and state consumer protection offices indicate systemic problems.

Next Step Filings reports that roughly one in five new clients comes to the company after a negative experience with another provider. Common issues include missed filing deadlines that triggered administrative dissolution, fees charged for services never completed, and incorrect filings that created additional compliance problems.

The company has processed over 20,000 business filings across 12 states with a 99.8% accuracy rate. Independent client surveys show a 93% satisfaction rate and a 90% client return rate across multiple filing cycles.

"We started this company because a business received a dissolution notice for a filing that should have been handled," Matthews said. "Every week, we hear variations of the same story from new clients. The pattern is clear enough that we believe business owners deserve a straightforward guide to protecting themselves."

Next Step Filings operates from its Glen Allen, Virginia headquarters with transparent, separated pricing that shows state fees and service fees as distinct line items. The company maintains named leadership, a verifiable physical address, and human oversight on every filing.

The full consumer advisory is available at nextstepfilings.com. Business owners who believe they have been affected by a predatory filing service can contact their state attorney general's office or file a complaint with the Better Business Bureau.

Next Step Filings is a private business services company and does not provide legal advice. For more information, visit nextstepfilings.com or call 1-888-851-6604.

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