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7 **STATE OF WASHINGTON**
8 **KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

9 In Re: The Matter of CA Certificate
10 Service, LLC d/b/a WA Certificate
11 Service, *et. al.*

DECLARATION OF TRACY
BAKER

12 I, TRACY BAKER, declare as follows:

13 1. I am over the age of 18 years, am competent to make this declaration, and have
14 personal knowledge of the facts stated herein.

15 2. My education includes a Master's Degree in Merchandising. I have been employed
16 as a Technical Writer for approximately 20 years.

17 3. In December 2019, I registered my business, Tracy Baker LLC, with the
18 Washington Secretary of State (SOS).

19 4. Attachment 1 is a copy of a letter I received from WA Certificate Service (WACS)
20 shortly after registering my LLC. The WACS letter instructed me to submit a payment of \$82.50
21 by January 3, 2020 for a certificate to complete registration of my business.

22 5. The timing of the letter was approximately 3 days following registration of my LLC.
23 The WACS letter included my personal identifiers (i.e. name, address) and the Universal Business
24 Identification (UBI) number assigned to my LLC. As a result, I thought the WACS letter was from
25 a Washington State government agency so I sent a personal check to WACS in the amount of
26 \$82.50, as requested in the letter. I made the payment because I thought WACS was a Washington
State government agency and my belief that in order to finalize registration of my LLC I needed to

1 obtain the certification document referred to in the WACS letter.

2 6. I do not recall if I contacted the Washington Secretary of State (SOS) or another
3 Washington State government agency but shortly after submitting my payment to WACS I visited
4 the SOS website and determined that I had been misled by WACS. I immediately contacted my
5 financial institution to place a stop payment on the check. The check had not been deposited so
6 while WACS did not negotiate my payment I did incur fees from my bank regarding my request to
7 stop payment on the check.

8 7. My instant concern is my ongoing exposure to identity theft and misuse of my
9 personal identifiers by WACS.

10 8. Based on the information referred to in this declaration, I believe the WACS letter
11 is misleading. As a result, I filed a complaint about WACS with the Washington Attorney General's
12 Office. Attachment 2 is a copy of my complaint.

13 I declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the
14 foregoing is true and correct.

15 
16 TRACY BAKER

17 Place Signed: Seattle WA
18 City, State

19 Date: 01/20/2024
20 MM/DD/YYYY

ATTACHMENT 1

2020 CERTIFICATE OF STATUS REQUEST FORM



WA Certificate Service
1911 SW Campus Drive
Suite 471
Federal Way, WA 98023

QUESTIONS?

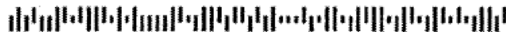


TOLL FREE (888) 842-9265

RECORDS@WACERTSERVICE.COM

11 *****AUTO**ALL FOR AADC 980
Tracy Baker LLC

235



IMPORTANT! FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY WHEN COMPLETING THIS FORM. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Key Code: WA-CS3847-1220
UBI Number: 604 560 406

Notice Date:
12/20/2019

PLEASE RESPOND BY:

January 3, 2020

Business Address:

Tracy Baker LLC



Congratulations on registering your business with the State of Washington. Your Articles have been filed with the secretary of state and are complete. You have one step left in order to attain your elective Washington Certificate of Status.

Below is a form for your newly registered business. Please confirm the accuracy of the information below for your Washington Certificate of Status Request.

A Washington Certificate of Status is issued by the Secretary of State and may be required for loans, to renew business licenses, or for tax or other business purposes. A Certificate of Good Status certifies that your Washington business is in existence, is authorized to transact business in the state and complies with all state requirements. The Certificate of Status shows the official evidence of an entity's existence and provides a statement of an entity's status, current legal name and date of formation. The Certificate of Status bears the official seal of the Washington Secretary of State.

Business Information

Entity Type: **WA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

Date Of Registration: **12/17/2019**

Certificate Of Status Fee: **\$82.50**

This is not a government agency

Step 1: Please Confirm Business Name & Address Are Correct.

Business Name: **Tracy Baker LLC**

UBI Number:

604 560 406

Step 2: Contact Information - DO NOT SKIP THIS STEP! Email & Contact Number Are Required For Processing

Name:

Tracy Baker

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

Step 3: Payment - Select Payment Method & Double Check Payment Information

☐ CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ENCLOSED
IN THE AMOUNT OF: **\$82.50**

Please make your check or money order payable to:

WA Certificate Service
1911 SW Campus Drive
Suite 471
Federal Way, WA 98023

[PLEASE ALLOW UP TO TWO WEEKS FOR
PROCESSING AND RETURN OF DOCUMENT]



Step 4: Authorization - Please Sign, Date & Return This Form With Payment Enclosed In Return Envelope Provided

Signature:

[REDACTED]

Date:

12/30/2019

ATTACHMENT 2

Complaint Extract

559724

Complaint

Number	559724	Status	Closed
Date	1/7/2020	Assignee	Holbrook, Ruth E
Location	Bellingham - Consumer Protection Division	Actual Savings	\$0.00
NAICS	560000-Admin. & support services (office admin., faciliti	Amount Disputed	\$0.00
		Estimated Savings	\$0.00

Description

I recently set up a Washington LLC. When I got back from vacation for Christmas, I had a letter in my mailbox from this organization, stating that I needed to submit payment for a certificate by 1/3/2020. I [stupidly] filled out the form and sent the payment without checking its validity. Only after the fact did I look on the SOS corporations site to find out this is a full-fledged SCAM. Given the date on their notice (3 days after I received notification of my LLC approval), I'm sure they're targeting all new LLC/SBs in Washington. My complaint is since the state knew this was an issue, WHY are these crooks still operating? What is being done to protect new freelancers like myself from this sort of thing? IF the SOS had included a warning in their intro packet about this, I would never have fallen for it. I've attached a copy of what I sent to the frauds. It looks pretty dang official. I put a stop payment on the check I sent because it had yet to be deposited. However, these frauds now have vital identifying and banking info and that just stinks. The mailing address was Pike Place in Seattle; unfortunately I didn't photocopy the envelope so I don't have that information.

Complainant

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone Day</u>	<u>Phone Evening</u>	<u>Email</u>
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TL Baker LLC
Tracy Baker

Respondent(s)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Toll Free</u>	<u>Email</u>
WA Certificate Service 1911 SW Campus Dr Ste 471 Federal Way, WA 98023			(888) 842-9265	
Washington Secretary of State PO Box 40220 Olympia, WA 98504-0220		(360) 902-4151	(360) 725-0377	mail@sos.wa.gov

Referral(s)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Secretary of State - Corporations	Corporations Division		(360) 725-0377	corps@sos.wa.gov

559724


1 of 3

Practice(s)

<u>Code</u>	<u>Practice</u>
998	Gouvernement agency complaint
323	Invoice - misleading or fraudulent

Activities

<u>Date Added</u>	<u>Activity Type</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1/7/2020	Reviewed	Attachment is missing. C gives two possible addresses for R. Attachment would clarify the address for R.
1/7/2020	Reviewed	Complaint is partly directed at SOS; C refers to an attachment which is missing. C provides other partial R contact info in narrative.
1/7/2020	Intake Notes	Complaint apparently not against SOS named in complaint description. Existing R entry with same address provided by C was used. C apparently filed complaint on behalf of his business which was entered as the C.
1/7/2020	Reviewed	Complaint is partly directed at SOS; C refers to an attachment which is missing.
1/7/2020	Intake Notes	Secretary of State added per complaint description. Attachment missing.
1/9/2020	Email to Complainant	C-MissingReferencedAttachment To: [REDACTED]
1/9/2020	Email from Complainant	Attachment is document A.
1/10/2020	Email to Respondent	R-1stLetter To: records@wacertservice.com
1/10/2020	Email to Complainant	C-1stLetterw-AGYReferral To: [REDACTED]
1/10/2020	Email to Referral	AR-FYltoAgency To: corps@sos.wa.gov

<u>Date Added</u>	<u>Activity Type</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1/10/2020	Other Government Agency Contact	<p>From: Corps <corps@sos.wa.gov> Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 10:07 AM To: ATG MI CRC Complaint Processing <crc@atg.wa.gov> Subject: RE: 559724 : A notice from the Washington State Attorney General's Office</p> <p>Thank you for emailing the Office of the Secretary of State; please allow a 24-48 hour reply time. Your email is important to us and would like the time to research and respond to your request. Please do not send multiple emails regarding the same subject, this may cause a delay in our response time.</p> <p>Thank you again and have a great day.</p>
1/15/2020	Email from Respondent	
1/15/2020	Email to Complainant	C-ClosingUnadjustedW-Response To: 
1/15/2020	Email to Respondent	R-ClosingW-Response To: records@wacertservice.com
1/15/2020	Resolution- CLOSED W/RESPONSE	