

Employee Non-Compete Agreement

- 🔊 Use this contract when hiring a key employee. If the employee later leaves the company, this agreement may prevent them from competing with the company, recruiting other employees, or misusing confidential information.
- 🔊 If the employee later leaves the company, this agreement prevents him or her from competing against the company, recruiting other employees, or misusing confidential information.
- 🔊 Courts generally frown on agreements that prevent people from working.
- 🔊 Courts understand; however, that there is a substantial investment in hiring, training, and paying employees, and that employers need to protect their interests.
- 🔊 While courts appreciate the need for non-compete agreements, they will not tolerate agreements with unreasonable restrictions.
- 🔊 The law regarding the enforceability of non-competition clauses varies from state to state, industry to industry and may be different for a particular situation (such as the employment of a former owner after the sale of a company, versus a simple employment contract).
- 🔊 The court will enforce a reasonable non-competition agreement, provided the employer has a legitimate need for the agreement, the geographic area covered is not too broad and the duration of the agreement is not too long.
- 🔊 The fact that an employee signed the agreement does not guarantee that the court will enforce it.
- 🔊 It is strongly recommended that you consult an attorney before signing a contract with a non-competition clause.

 Cover memo.

Date: **[Date]**

To: **[Name of Employee]**

From: **[Owner/Founder]**
[Company]

Subject: **Employee Non-Compete Agreement**



Attached is Employee Non-Compete Agreement in order to establish the relationship as part of your new employment with us.

I believe that it embodies everything we discussed.

Please read the agreement carefully.

We recommend that you also have it reviewed by your own qualified legal counsel.

Please sign and return it to me asap.

Thank you very much!

From JIAN

NOTICE:

We wish we could provide an agreement that was tailored *exactly* to your business. While this is not always possible, we feel that we've come very close and that this document provides you with the head-start that you need to get your deal moving. Nevertheless, we must make this disclaimer:

- 🔊 **Do Not Use This Agreement 'As-Is.'**
- 🔊 **This Agreement Is Not Legal Advice.**
- 🔊 **Read it Thoroughly and Make All Appropriate Changes to Fit Your Requirements.**
- 🔊 **You Should Have this Agreement Reviewed and Approved by a Qualified Attorney at Law Before Using It.**
- 🔊 **JIAN Accepts No Liability for the Effectiveness of This Document For Your Purposes.**

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
Things change, laws change, the world changes... new ideas come along all the time. When you register, you can access our website to get updates and changes... like new and improved spreadsheets and documents. They can be downloaded directly to your computer.

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Editing Your Sample Contract

Since this entire agreement is formatted in Word, you can edit it like any other Word document. You can jump from variable to variable by clicking the above  green arrows (JIAN Menu) which will take you forward / backward and highlight the entire sample text identified within the “[]” brackets – simply edit / type-over with your information.

To make sure you have filled in all the variables, use Word's 'FIND' function to locate any “[]” which may contain an unedited variable.

- Click the  icon in the JIAN menu above to turn the expert comments on/off.
- Upon completion, delete any unnecessary blank lines that remain.
- You may format this document any way you like.
- Delete this page.

either for Employee's own account or as a partner, shareholder (other than shares regularly traded in a recognized market), officer, employee, agent or otherwise, be employed by, connected with, participate in, consult or otherwise associate with any other business, enterprise or venture that is the same as, similar to or competitive with [Company]. By way of example, and not as a limitation, the foregoing shall preclude Employee from soliciting business or sales from, or attempting to convert to other sellers or providers of the same or similar products or services as provided by [Company], any customer, client or account of [Company] with which Employee has had any contact during the term of employment.

B. During employment and for a period of [Non-Solicitation Period] thereafter, Employee shall not, directly or indirectly, solicit for employment or employ any employee of [Company].

C. During employment, and thereafter [Confidentiality Period], Employee shall not disclose to anyone any Confidential Information. For the purposes of this Agreement, "Confidential Information" shall include any of [Company]'s confidential, proprietary or trade secret information that is disclosed to Employee or Employee otherwise learns in the course of employment such as, but not limited to, business plans, customer lists, financial statements, software diagrams, flow charts and product plans. Confidential Information shall not include any information which; (i) is or becomes publicly available through no act of Employee, (ii) is rightfully received by Employee from a third party without restrictions; or (iii) is independently developed by Employee.

2. At-Will Employment

Employee acknowledges that Employee's employment is "at will," subject to applicable law, and that either [Company] or Employee may terminate employment at any time, with or without notice, for any reason or no reason whatsoever. Nothing in this Agreement shall constitute a promise of employment for any particular duration or rate of pay.

3. Accounting for Profits

Employee covenants and agrees that, if Employee shall violate any covenants or agreements in Section 1 hereof, [Company] shall be entitled to an accounting and repayment of all profits, compensation, commissions, remunerations or benefits which Employee directly or indirectly has realized and/or may realize as a result of, growing out of or in connection with any such violation; such remedy shall be in addition to and not in limitation of any injunctive relief or other rights or remedies to which [Company] is or may be entitled at law or in equity or under this Agreement.

4. Reasonableness of Restrictions

A. Employee has carefully read and considered the provisions of Section 1 hereof and, having done so, agrees that the restrictions set forth therein (including, but not limited to, the time period of restriction and the geographical areas of restriction) are fair and reasonable and are reasonably required for the protection of the interests of [Company], its officers, directors, shareholders and other employees.

B. In the event that, notwithstanding the foregoing, any part of the covenants set forth in Section 1 hereof shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining parts thereof shall nevertheless continue to be valid and enforceable as though the invalid or unenforceable parts had not been included therein. In the event that any provision of Section 1 relating to time period and/or areas of restriction shall be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to exceed the maximum time period or areas such court deems reasonable and enforceable, the agreed upon time period and/or areas of restriction shall be deemed to become and thereafter be the maximum time period and/or areas which such court deems reasonable and enforceable.

5. Burden & Benefit

This Agreement shall be binding upon, and shall inure to the benefit of, [Company] and Employee, and their respective heirs, personal and legal representatives, successors and assigns.

7. General Provisions

☞ The General Provisions that follow are fairly standard. These provisions enhance the balance of the Agreement by defining certain common issues such as notice, assignment, legal remedies, waiver, and attorney fees, etc..

7.1 **Non-Solicitation.** Neither party shall solicit for employment or hire the other's current or future employees, either directly or indirectly, during the Term of this Agreement, without obtaining the other's prior written approval. Should an employee change employment from one party to the other, the new employer shall pay the old employer a fee equivalent to Twenty Percent (20%) of the employee's new compensation, annualized for the first year.

☞ You must decide which state governs this Agreement and where any legal action would be taken. Generally, it is your (company's) state of residence.

7.2 **Governing Law & Jurisdiction.** This agreement and the parties' actions under this Agreement shall be governed by and construed under the laws of the state of [State], without reference to conflict of law principles. The parties hereby expressly consent to the jurisdiction and venue of the federal and state courts within the state of [State]. Each party hereby irrevocably consents to the service of process in any such action or proceeding by the mailing of copies thereof by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, to such party at its address set forth in the preamble of this Agreement, such service to become effective thirty (30) days after such mail is received.

☞ This Agreement is intended to be the only Agreement and that no other documents or communications are binding. Therefore, it is very important to make sure that everything [Company] and [Client] have agreed to is included in this Agreement. Otherwise, it is as if it were not agreed to.

7.3 **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement, including the attached exhibits, constitutes the entire Agreement between both parties concerning this transaction, and replaces all previous communications, representations, understandings, and Agreements, whether verbal or written between the parties to this Agreement or their representatives. No representations or statements of any kind made by either party, which are not expressly stated in this Agreement, shall be binding on such parties.

☞ Any changes to this Agreement must be in writing and signed by the party against whom that writing is to be used.

7.4 **All Amendments in Writing.** No waiver, amendment or modification of any provisions of this Agreement shall be effective unless in writing and signed by a duly authorized representative of the party against whom such waiver, amendment or modification is sought to be enforced. Furthermore, no provisions in either party's purchase orders or in any other business forms employed by either party will supersede the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

☞ All notices between the parties must be in writing and either delivered in person or by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested.

7.5 **Notices.** Any notice required or permitted by this Agreement shall be deemed given if sent by registered mail, postage prepaid with return receipt requested, addressed to the other party at the address set forth in the preamble of this Agreement or at such other address for which such party gives notice hereunder. Delivery shall be deemed effective three (3) days after deposit with postal authorities.

☞ In the event of a lawsuit or any legal proceeding involving this Agreement, the losing party will have to pay the winning party his or her costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney fees.



7.6 **Costs of Legal Action.** In the event any action is brought to enforce this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover its costs of enforcement including, without limitation, attorneys' fees and court costs.

☞ Legal remedies, i.e., money damages, may not be sufficient; therefore, both parties agree to equitable remedies such as an injunction where the breaching party would be required to do or not to do something.

7.7 **Inadequate Legal Remedy.** Both parties understand and acknowledge that violation of their respective covenants and Agreements may cause the other irreparable harm and damage, that may not be recovered at law, and each agrees that the other's remedies for breach may be in equity by way of injunctive relief, as well as for damages and any other relief available to the non-breaching party, whether in law or in equity.

☞ Assuming the parties wish to use Arbitration in the event of a dispute, the following section should be included. You take your chances with an arbitrator, but it keeps legal costs down and keeps you out of a drawn out legal process.

7.8 **Arbitration.** Any dispute relating to the interpretation or performance of this Agreement shall be resolved at the request of either party through binding arbitration. Arbitration shall be conducted in [County], [State] in accordance with the then-existing rules of the American Arbitration Association. Judgment upon any award by the arbitrators may be entered by any state or federal court having jurisdiction. Both parties intend that this Agreement to arbitrate be irrevocable.

☞ Merely delaying to bring  action that one party has a right to bring does not cause that party to lose or waive his right to  sue that action.

7.9 **Delay is Not a Waiver.** No failure or delay by either party in exercising any right, power or remedy under this Agreement, except as specifically provided in this Agreement, shall operate as a waiver of any such right, power or remedy.

☞ Neither party will be blamed if there is a problem resulting from something beyond its control, such as an earthquake, flood, war.

7.10 **Force Majeure.** In the event that either party is unable to perform any of its obligations under this Agreement or to enjoy any of its benefits because of any Act of God, strike, fire, flood, governmental acts, orders or restrictions, Internet system unavailability, system malfunctions or any other reason where failure to perform is beyond the reasonable control and not caused by the negligence of the non-performing party (a "Force Majeure Event"), the party who has been so affected shall give notice immediately to the other party and shall use its reasonable best efforts to resume performance. Failure to meet due dates resulting from a Force Majeure Event shall extend such due dates for a reasonable period. However, if the period of nonperformance exceeds sixty (60) days from the receipt of notice of the Force Majeure Event, the party whose ability to perform has not been affected may, by giving written notice, terminate this Agreement effective immediately upon such notice or at such later date as is therein specified.

☞ This section limits the ability of either party to transfer any of its rights or delegate any of its duties to third parties.

☞ You want to make sure that you can sell your business along with all of the relationships you have developed along the way. (Often these relationships can add tremendous value to your business and you want to make sure that all of your agreements can be transferred to the new owners.) I wouldn't want to seek (let alone pay for) permission to sell my company.

☞ Generally, neither party may assign their respective rights to a third party; however, with the possible exception of assignment to a successor corporation or partnership, either party may transfer its rights or obligations under this Agreement without the approval of the other party. This Agreement would be binding on the 3rd party.

☞ However, you may want to limit each other's ability to pass along this deal to another possibly unknown and possibly unfriendly entity. The second paragraph prevents unauthorized transfer of responsibilities...

☞ CHOOSE one or the other of these two following paragraphs.

7.11 **Assignability & Binding Effect.** Except as expressly set forth within this Agreement, neither party may transfer or assign, directly or indirectly, this Agreement or its rights and obligations hereunder without the express written permission of the other party, not to be unreasonably withheld; provided, however, that both parties shall have the right to assign or otherwise transfer this Agreement to any parent, subsidiary, affiliated entity or pursuant to any merger, consolidation or reorganization, provided that all such assignees and transferees agree in writing to be bound by the terms of this Agreement prior to such assignment or transfer. Subject to the foregoing, this Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto, their successors and assigns.

☞ --Or --

☞ This paragraph DOES NOT ALLOW either party to transfer its rights to a successor company without prior approval.

7.12 **Non-Assignability & Binding Effect.** Except as otherwise provided for within this Agreement, neither party may assign any of its rights or delegate any of its obligations under this Agreement to any third party without the express written permission of the other. Any such assignment is deemed null and void.

☞ If any part of this Agreement is unenforceable or invalid, the balance of the Agreement should still be enforced. Basically, ignore any sections that are invalid.

7.13 **Severability.** If any provisions of this Agreement are held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid under any applicable statute or rule of law, they are to that extent to be deemed omitted and the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

☞ The headings of the various sections are meant to explain or otherwise give meaning to those sections; they are for convenience only.

7.14 **Cumulative Rights.** Any specific right or remedy provided in this Agreement will not be exclusive but will be cumulative upon all other rights and remedies described in this section and allowed under applicable law.

7.15 **Headings.** The titles and headings of the various sections and sections in this Agreement are intended solely for convenience of reference and are not intended for any other purpose whatsoever, or to explain, modify or place any construction upon or on any of the provisions of this Agreement.

☞ Every copy shall be just as valid as the original.

7.16 **Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, any one of which will be considered an original, but all of which will constitute one and the same instrument.

☞ Even after the termination of the Agreement, the parties may still have certain responsibilities such as keeping information confidential.

7.17 **Survival of Certain Provisions.** The warranties and the indemnification and confidentiality obligations set forth in the Agreement shall survive the termination of the Agreement by either party for any reason.

Understood, Agreed & Approved

We have carefully reviewed this contract and agree to and accept all of its terms and conditions. We are executing this Agreement as of the Effective Date above.

[Company]

Employee

[Owner/Founder]

[Employee Name]

Title

Title

