


# Joint Venture Agreement

- 🔊 Use this sample agreement when establishing a relationship to undertake a joint business relationship.
- 🔊 These things can sometimes go very wrong, so it's best to be very specific as to the nature of the joint venture as well as to what each participant will contribute to the project.
- 🔊 This sample contract should give you an excellent head-start to putting together a workable deal.
- 🔊 See also, the "Joint Marketing" agreement.

Date: **[Date]**

To:  **Name of Partner]**

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

Subject: **Joint Venture Agreement**

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Attached is a Joint Venture Agreement in order to establish the arrangement as to how we will work together to develop/promote [what?].

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.

Time is of the essence.

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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We're building a network of business experts who are eager to help you when you need it. They can review your work, make suggestions, handle unique situations and introduce you to influential people. On our website you can search by expertise and location, then e-mail or jump straight to their website. Although they are professionals and charge for their services, most offer an initial consultation free of charge. They're in your area and you can contact them directly.


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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.

- Please visit our website under [Updates](#).
- Remember to bookmark our website: [www.JIAN.com](http://www.JIAN.com)

## 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.

# Joint Venture Agreement

☞ This introductory paragraph lists the date and the parties to this Agreement. We formatted this agreement uniquely to make it easy on others (judge, arbitrator(s), etc. God forbid) to readily understand who is involved, when the agreement begins and some basic summary background information.

Effective Date **[Date]**

between **[Company Legal Name]**, (“[Company]”)  
a **[State]** **[Corporation/Partnership/Sole Proprietorship/Resident]**,  
located at **[Address]**  
 **[City]**, **[State]** **[Zip Code]**

and **[Partner Name]**, (“Vendor”)  
a **[State]** **[Corporation/Partnership/Sole Proprietorship/Resident]**  
located at **[Address]**.

## 1. Summary

The business of the Joint Venture shall be as follows:

- **[Describe Business Purpose]**
- Xxx
- Xxx

Further described and detailed in Exhibit A attached.

**1.2 Term of the Agreement.** This Joint Venture shall commence on the Effective Date first above written and shall continue in existence until terminated, liquidated, or dissolved by law or as hereinafter provided.

## 2. General Definitions

The following comprise the general definitions of terms utilized in this Agreement:

- **Affiliate.** An Affiliate of an entity is a person that, directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by or is under common control of such entity.
- **Capital Contribution(s).** The capital contribution to the Joint Venture actually made by the parties, including property, cash and any additional capital contributions made.
- **Profits & Losses.** Any income or loss of the Partnership for federal income tax purposes determined by the Partnership's fiscal year, including, without limitation, each item of Partnership income, gain, loss or deduction.

## 3. Allocations

**3.1 Books & Records.** The Joint Venture shall keep adequate books and records at its place of business, setting forth a true and accurate account of all business transactions arising out of and in connection with the conduct of the Joint Venture.

3.2 **Profits & Losses.** Commencing on the Effective Date and ending upon the termination of the business of the Joint Venture, all profits, losses and other allocations to the Joint Venture shall be allocated as follows at the conclusion of each fiscal year:

- [Company] [00]%
- [Partner] [00]%

#### 4. Rights & Duties of the Joint Venturers

🔊 You must designate a person who is responsible for the outcome for the joint venture – no finger pointing! The default person here is YOU.

4.1 **Business of the Joint Venture.** [Owner/Founder] shall have full, exclusive and complete authority and discretion in the management and control of the business of the Joint Venture for the purposes herein stated and shall make all decisions affecting the business of the Joint Venture. As such, any action taken shall constitute the act of, and serve to bind, the Joint Venture.

🔊 If there is someone or some entity specifically not included in this deal, then state that here.

[Name] shall not participate in or have any control over the Joint Venture business nor shall it have any authority or right to act for or bind the Joint Venture.

#### 5. Agreements with Third Parties and with Affiliates of the Joint Venturers

5.1 **Validity of Transactions.** Affiliates of the parties to this Agreement may be engaged to perform services for the Joint Venture. The validity of any transaction, agreement or payment involving the Joint Venture and any Affiliates of the parties to this Agreement otherwise permitted by the terms of this Agreement shall not be affected by reason of the relationship between them and such Affiliates or the approval of said transactions, agreement or payment.

5.2 **Other Business of the Parties to this Agreement.** The parties to this Agreement and their respective Affiliates may have interests in businesses other than the Joint Venture business. The Joint Venture shall not have the right to the income or proceeds derived from such other business interests and, even if they are competitive with the Partnership business, such business interests shall not be deemed wrongful or improper.

#### 6. Payment of Expenses

🔊 When an invoice needs to be paid, who pays it?

All expenses of the Joint Venture shall be paid by [Company] and shall be reimbursed by the Joint Venture according to the allocation(s) established in Section 3 above.

#### 7. Indemnification of the Joint Venturers

The parties to this Agreement shall have no liability to the other for any loss suffered which arises out of any action or inaction if, in good faith, it is determined that such course of conduct was in the best interests of the Joint Venture and such course of conduct did not constitute negligence or misconduct. The parties to this Agreement shall each be indemnified by the other against losses, judgments, liabilities, expenses and amounts paid in settlement of any claims sustained by it in connection with the Joint Venture.

#### 8. Dissolution

8.1 **Events of the Joint Ventures.** The Joint Venture shall be dissolved upon the happening of any of the following events:

- (a) The adjudication of bankruptcy, filing of a petition pursuant to a Chapter of the Federal Bankruptcy Act, withdrawal, removal or insolvency of either of the parties.
- (b) The sale or other disposition, not including an exchange of all, or substantially all, of the Joint

Venture assets.

(c) Mutual agreement of both parties.

## General Provisions

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

9.1 **Independent Contractors.** The relationship between both parties established by this Agreement is that of independent contractors, and nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to give either party the power to direct and control the day-to-day activities of the other. Neither party is an agent, representative or partner of the other party. Neither party shall have any right, power or authority to enter into any agreement for, or on behalf of, or incur any obligation or liability of, or to otherwise bind, the other party. This Agreement shall not be interpreted or construed to create an association, agency, joint venture or partnership between the parties or to impose any liability attributable to such relationship upon either party.

☞ 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.

9.2 **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 mailing.

☞ 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 was not agreed to.

9.3 **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.

9.4 **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.

9.5 **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.

9.6 **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.

9.7 **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.

9.8. **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. [Company] and [Client] intend that this Agreement to arbitrate be irrevocable.

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

9.8 **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.

9.9 **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

9.10 **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.

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

9.10 **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.

9.11 **Certain Sections Invalid.** 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.

9.13 **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.

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

9.14 **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]

[Partner]

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[Owner/Founder]

---

[Partner Name]

---

Title

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Title






# Exhibit A

## Specific Contribution of [Company]

- Xxx
- Xxx
- Xxx
- [Company] contact & designated representative/leader on this Joint Venture project:
- [Owner/Founder]
- [Address], [City] [State] [Zip Code]
- [Telephone]
- [Founder Email]

## Specific Contribution of [Partner]

- Xxx
- Xxx 
- Xxx
- [Partner] contact & designated representative/leader on this Joint Venture project:
- [Partner Name]
- [Partner Address], [City] [State] [Zip Code]
- [Partner Telephone]
- [Partner Email]
-