



March 14, 2025

Transfer of Business Liability

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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One mechanism to aid in the collection of personal property tax is the requirement which requires the purchaser of a business to check for unpaid personal property taxes of the business. Under this procedure any taxpayer who sells or terminates a business must notify the assessor and pay all outstanding personal property taxes within 15 days of the sale or termination. The buyer must withhold sufficient funds from the purchase price to pay the tax liability, retaining those funds until the seller produces a certificate of compliance from the assessor and receipts from the trustee for the payment of all taxes. If the buyer does not withhold this amount, the buyer becomes personally liable for these unpaid taxes.¹

¹T.C.A. § 67-5-513.

Source URL: <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/transfer-business-liability>