



GA Installment Lender License New Application Checklist (Branch)

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Who is required to have this approval?

Each licensee who intends to operate and maintain an additional office **in Georgia** shall file an application with the Department of Banking and Finance (Department) requesting approval to open an additional office. A “branch” shall be any physical location, other than the principal place of business, where a licensee engages in the business of installment lending. Each branch location must be separately approved and will require a filing of a Branch Form (MU3) through the NMLS. Branches located outside the State of Georgia do not require the Department’s approval.

A location, including a personal residence, shall be considered a branch of a licensee requiring approval for purposes of the Georgia Installment Loan Act (Act) if any of the following conditions are met:

- The location address is printed on or contained in letterheads, business cards, announcements, advertisements, solicitations for business, flyers, brochures, or the like;
- Georgia consumers are received at the location or are directed to deliver any information by any means to the location;
- Loan files or any other books and records required by the Act or Department rules are located at the location; or
- The licensee directly or indirectly reimburses for rent, utility bills or other expenses incurred for use of a location as a branch.

What do I need to know before I apply?

A **location manager** must be designated and approved for each licensed location in Georgia [Department Rule 80-14-1-.02]. The location manager is an individual who supervises daily activities in Georgia of an installment lender licensee, whether at a main or branch location, and regardless of job title. An MU2 must also be completed in NMLS on the location manager (referred to as the Branch Manager in NMLS) with this application.

No individual may serve as the branch manager of more than one location of a licensee. This restriction is in place to ensure that the branch manager can effectively manage the branch location and adequately supervise the daily functions performed by the employees at the location.

Net Branching: Net Branching is not acceptable and net branches will not be approved. Refer to Department Rule 80-14-1-.01 Place of Business Requirements; Convenience and Advantage of Community for further details.

Activities Authorized Under This Approval

This approval authorizes the following activities. See the [Business Activities Definitions](#) for a full list and description of the activity.

- Consumer loan lending

Georgia does not issue a separate license or license certificate for each branch location.

Pre-Requisites Applications

- A branch application should only be submitted by a company that also holds or is applying for a Georgia Installment Lender License.

Helpful Resources

- [Branch Form \(MU3\) Filing Quick Guide](#)
- [Document Upload Descriptions and Examples](#)
- [Payment Options Quick Guide](#)
- [License Status Definitions Quick Guide](#)

Agency Contact Information

Contact the Non-Depository Financial Institutions (NDFI) Division licensing staff via email at NDFI@dbf.state.ga.us for additional assistance.

Website: <https://dbf.georgia.gov>

THE APPLICANT/LICENSEE IS FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LICENSE FOR WHICH THEY ARE APPLYING. THE AGENCY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE FOR GUIDANCE ONLY TO FACILITATE APPLICATION THROUGH NMLS. SHOULD YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONSULT LEGAL COUNSEL.

LICENSE FEES - Fees collected through NMLS are not REFUNDABLE or TRANSFERABLE.

Complete	GA Installment Lender Branch Approval	Submitted via...
<input type="checkbox"/>	GA Application Fee: \$300 NMLS Processing Fee: \$20	NMLS (Filing submission)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit Report for Control Persons: \$15 per control person.	NMLS (Filing submission)
<input type="checkbox"/>	FBI Criminal Background Check for MU2 Individual: \$36.25 per person.	NMLS (Filing submission)

REQUIREMENTS COMPLETED IN NMLS

Complete	GA Installment Lender Branch Approval	Submitted via...
<input type="checkbox"/>	Submission of Branch Form (MU3): Complete and submit the Branch Form (MU3) in NMLS. This form serves as the application for the license through NMLS.	NMLS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic Surety Bond: Additional locations operated by the licensee affect the amount of the surety bond requirement. The Electronic Surety Bond must be increased by \$5,000 for each additional location in Georgia, provided that no licensee shall be required to have a bond that exceeds a total amount of \$100,000. See the ESB Adoption Table and the ESB for NMLS Licensees page of the NMLS Resource Center for more information. Note: Surety bonds submitted via the <i>Document Uploads</i> section <u>will not</u> satisfy this requirement.	Electronic Surety Bond in NMLS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Trade Name/DBA: If the branch will operate under a name that is different from the company's legal name, that name ("Trade Name" or "DBA") must be listed under the <i>Other Trade Names</i> section of the Branch Form (MU3). Applicants and licensees must include ALL Other Trade Names identified on a Branch Form on the Company Form of the Company Form (MU1).	NMLS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Branch Manager (Location Manager): A branch manager must be designated and approved for each licensed location in Georgia. The Branch Manager must have a completed Individual Form (MU2) filed at the same time as the Branch Form (MU3).	NMLS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Branch Manager (MU2) Attestation: Complete the Individual Form (MU2) in NMLS. This form must be attested to by the applicable branch manager before it is able to be submitted along with the Branch Form (MU3).	NMLS

REQUIREMENTS COMPLETED IN NMLS		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Disclosure Questions: Provide a complete and detailed explanation and document upload for each “Yes” response to Disclosure Questions made by the company or related control persons (MU2).</p> <p>See the Company Disclosure Explanations Quick Guide for instructions.</p>	<p>Upload in NMLS in the <i>Disclosure Explanations</i> section of the Individual Form (MU2).</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Credit Report: Branch managers are required to authorize a credit report through NMLS. Individuals will be required to complete an Identity Verification Process (IDV) along with an individual attestation before a license request for can be filed through NMLS.</p>	<p>NMLS</p>

INDIVIDUAL (MU2) DOCUMENTS UPLOADED IN NMLS		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Credit Report Explanations: Submit a line by line, detailed letter of explanation of all derogatory credit accounts along with proof of payoffs, payment arrangements and evidence of payments made, or evidence of any formal dispute filed (documents must be dated). Accounts to address include, but are not limited to: collections items, charge offs, accounts currently past due, accounts with serious delinquencies in the last 3 years, repossessions, loan modifications, etc.</p> <p>Note: Items regarding bankruptcy, foreclosure actions, outstanding judgments or liens, or delinquent child support payments should be addressed in the <i>Disclosure Explanations</i> section of your Individual Form (MU2).</p> <p>This document should be named <i>Credit Report Explanations – Sub Name – Document Creation Date</i>.</p>	<p>Upload in NMLS: under the Document Type <u>Credit Report Explanations</u> in the <i>Document Uploads</i> section of the Individual Form (MU2).</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>MU2 Individual FBI Criminal Background Check Requirements: Branch managers indicated on the Branch Form (MU3) are required to authorize an FBI criminal background check (CBC) through NMLS. A criminal background increases the difficulty of making a favorable finding on an application. The Department shall not issue a license if the applicant or any of its MU2/Control Persons has been convicted of a felony and did not obtain a pardon or other remedy pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 7-3-42(a).</p> <p>After authorizing an FBI criminal background check, <u>you must schedule an appointment to be fingerprinted if new prints are required.</u></p> <p>See the Criminal Background Check section of the NMLS Resource Center for more information.</p> <p>Note: If you are able to ‘Use Existing Prints’ to process the FBI criminal background check, you DO NOT have to schedule an appointment. NMLS will automatically submit the fingerprints on file.</p>	<p>NMLS</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>State Background Check Authorization: Branch managers are required to upload an executed original copy of the <i>Background Check Authorization Form</i>.</p> <p>Click here to access the Georgia Background Authorization form.</p>	<p>Upload in NMLS: under the Document Type <u>State Background Check Authorization</u> in the</p>

	This document should be named <i>[State Abbreviation] – BC Authorization</i> .	<i>Document Uploads</i> section of the Individual Form (MU2).
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BRANCH (MU3) DOCUMENTS UPLOADED IN NMLS

Complete	GA Installment Lender Branch Approval	Submitted via...
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Branch Lease: If the location is leased, upload a copy of the signed lease agreement between the property owner and the branch authorizing it to work out of the physical location.</p> <p>Lease agreements that are not between the property owner and the licensee require explanation. If the location is not leased, please upload an explanation in place of a signed lease agreement.</p> <p>This document should be named <i>Branch Lease – Document Creation Date</i>.</p>	<p>Upload in NMLS: under the Document Type <u>Branch Written Agreement</u> in the <i>Document Uploads</i> section of the Branch Form (MU3).</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Branch Office Questionnaire: Answers to the GA Installment Lender Branch Office Questionnaire should be typed. If additional answer space is required, please include additional pages and attach to this application.</p> <p>Click to download document.</p> <p>This document should be named <i>GA Branch Office Questionnaire – Document Creation Date</i>.</p>	<p>Upload in NMLS: under the Document Type <u>Branch Written Agreement</u> in the <i>Document Uploads</i> section of the Branch Form (MU3).</p>

REQUIREMENTS SUBMITTED OUTSIDE OF NMLS - These items must be completed outside of NMLS and submitted directly to the regulator.

No items are required to be submitted outside of NMLS at this time.