

WAC 192-350-020 What are examples of when a predecessor-successor relationship exists? The following examples are intended to illustrate factors that the department may consider in determining whether or not a predecessor-successor relationship exists.

(1) Business A, a sole proprietor widget manufacturer, sells its operations to new business B, a corporation. B plans to continue in the same type of widget manufacturing business as A. The sale includes the name of the business, goodwill, existing inventory, manufacturing equipment, and an ongoing lease. All employees of A transfer to B. This is a predecessor-successor relationship.

(2) Business A, a sole proprietorship retailer, goes out of business. It decides to sell some of its assets, including a company car. Business B, a retailer in a different business, decides to buy the car. It does not acquire any other assets, including employees, from A. Even though B has acquired an asset from A, there is no predecessor-successor relationship because the only relationship is a single asset which is incidental to the primary business of the employers.

(3) Business A and business B are independent corporations, but subdivisions of another entity C. C reorganizes and decides to eliminate A, lay off some employees, and transfer the remaining employees to B. B is the successor to A.

(4) Business A, a small sole proprietorship taxicab company, sells its one taxicab to business B, a much larger taxicab company. No employees transfer, but B tries to retain as much of A's customer base as possible. B is in the same business as A and is in a predecessor-successor relationship.

(5) Business A, a large taxicab company, sells one of its many taxicabs to business B, a small sole proprietorship taxicab company. No employees transfer, but B tries to retain as much of A's customer base as possible. B is in the same business as A and has acquired part of a predecessor employer's operating assets, so B is a partial successor.

(6) Business A, a sit-down restaurant for families which operates in a leased facility, closes. A month later business B, a family restaurant operating under a different name and under a new lease reopens in the same location. One of five servers laid off when business A closed is rehired by business B. If this is the full extent of the relationship between business A and business B, this is not a predecessor-successor relationship. Examples of some of the factors which might change this to a predecessor-successor relationship are: If business B shares some of the same ownership with business A; the extent to which they advertise the same, use the same suppliers, maintain the same restaurant motif and decor, or use the same menu; the extent to which they use the same equipment and dishes; the extent to which the terms of the new lease appear to continue the previous one; and the extent to which other key employees continue from one employer to the other.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 50.12.010, 50.12.040, and 50.29.064. WSR 07-23-131, § 192-350-020, filed 11/21/07, effective 1/1/08.]