

Fill in this information to identify your case:

United States Bankruptcy Court for the:

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case number (if known) _____ Chapter 11 Check if this an amended filing**Official Form 201****Voluntary Petition for Non-Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy**

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If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write the debtor's name and case number (if known). For more information, a separate document, *Instructions for Bankruptcy Forms for Non-Individuals*, is available.

1. **Debtor's name** LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc.
-
2. **All other names debtor used in the last 8 years**
 Include any assumed names, trade names and *doing business as* names
DBA Sign Effex
-
3. **Debtor's federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)** 46-3512463
-
4. **Debtor's address**
- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Principal place of business</p> <p><u>512 Sixth Street NW</u>
 <u>Winter Haven, FL 33881</u>
 Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code</p> <p><u>Polk</u>
 County</p> | <p>Mailing address, if different from principal place of business</p> <p><u>3135 Marble Crest Drive</u>
 <u>Land O Lakes, FL 34638</u>
 P.O. Box, Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code</p> <p>Location of principal assets, if different from principal place of business</p> <p>_____
 Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code</p> |
|---|--|
-
5. **Debtor's website (URL)** www.signeffex.com
-
6. **Type of debtor**
- Corporation (including Limited Liability Company (LLC) and Limited Liability Partnership (LLP))
- Partnership (excluding LLP)
- Other. Specify: _____
-

Debtor LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc.
Name

Case number (if known) _____

7. Describe debtor's business

A. Check one:

- Health Care Business (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(27A))
- Single Asset Real Estate (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51B))
- Railroad (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(44))
- Stockbroker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(53A))
- Commodity Broker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(6))
- Clearing Bank (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 781(3))
- None of the above

B. Check all that apply

- Tax-exempt entity (as described in 26 U.S.C. §501)
- Investment company, including hedge fund or pooled investment vehicle (as defined in 15 U.S.C. §80a-3)
- Investment advisor (as defined in 15 U.S.C. §80b-2(a)(11))

C. NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) 4-digit code that best describes debtor.
 See <http://www.uscourts.gov/four-digit-national-association-naics-codes>.

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8. Under which chapter of the Bankruptcy Code is the debtor filing?

Check one:

- Chapter 7
- Chapter 9

Chapter 11. Check all that apply:

- Debtor's aggregate noncontingent liquidated debts (excluding debts owed to insiders or affiliates) are less than \$2,566,050 (amount subject to adjustment on 4/01/19 and every 3 years after that).
- The debtor is a small business debtor as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D). If the debtor is a small business debtor, attach the most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return or if all of these documents do not exist, follow the procedure in 11 U.S.C. § 1116(1)(B).
- A plan is being filed with this petition.
- Acceptances of the plan were solicited prepetition from one or more classes of creditors, in accordance with 11 U.S.C. § 1126(b).
- The debtor is required to file periodic reports (for example, 10K and 10Q) with the Securities and Exchange Commission according to § 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. File the *attachment to Voluntary Petition for Non-Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy under Chapter 11* (Official Form 201A) with this form.
- The debtor is a shell company as defined in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 Rule 12b-2.

Chapter 12

9. Were prior bankruptcy cases filed by or against the debtor within the last 8 years?

- No.
- Yes.

If more than 2 cases, attach a separate list.

District _____ When _____ Case number _____

District _____ When _____ Case number _____

10. Are any bankruptcy cases pending or being filed by a business partner or an affiliate of the debtor?

- No
- Yes.

List all cases. If more than 1, attach a separate list

Debtor _____ Relationship _____

District _____ When _____ Case number, if known _____

Debtor LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc.
Name

Case number (if known) _____

11. **Why is the case filed in this district?** *Check all that apply:*

Debtor has had its domicile, principal place of business, or principal assets in this district for 180 days immediately preceding the date of this petition or for a longer part of such 180 days than in any other district.

A bankruptcy case concerning debtor's affiliate, general partner, or partnership is pending in this district.

12. **Does the debtor own or have possession of any real property or personal property that needs immediate attention?**

No

Yes. Answer below for each property that needs immediate attention. Attach additional sheets if needed.

Why does the property need immediate attention? *(Check all that apply.)*

It poses or is alleged to pose a threat of imminent and identifiable hazard to public health or safety.
What is the hazard? _____

It needs to be physically secured or protected from the weather.

It includes perishable goods or assets that could quickly deteriorate or lose value without attention (for example, livestock, seasonal goods, meat, dairy, produce, or securities-related assets or other options).

Other _____

Where is the property? _____
Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

Is the property insured?

No

Yes. Insurance agency _____
Contact name _____
Phone _____

Statistical and administrative information

13. **Debtor's estimation of available funds** *Check one:*

Funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors.

After any administrative expenses are paid, no funds will be available to unsecured creditors.

14. **Estimated number of creditors**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-49	<input type="checkbox"/> 1,000-5,000	<input type="checkbox"/> 25,001-50,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 50-99	<input type="checkbox"/> 5001-10,000	<input type="checkbox"/> 50,001-100,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 100-199	<input type="checkbox"/> 10,001-25,000	<input type="checkbox"/> More than 100,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 200-999		

15. **Estimated Assets**

<input type="checkbox"/> \$0 - \$50,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 - \$10 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001 - \$1 billion
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 - \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001 - \$50 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001 - \$100 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 - \$1 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001 - \$500 million	<input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion

16. **Estimated liabilities**

<input type="checkbox"/> \$0 - \$50,000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 - \$10 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001 - \$1 billion
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 - \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001 - \$50 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001 - \$10 billion
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001 - \$100 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001 - \$50 billion
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 - \$1 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001 - \$500 million	<input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion

Debtor LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc.
Name

Case number (if known) _____

Request for Relief, Declaration, and Signatures

WARNING -- Bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime. Making a false statement in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$500,000 or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

17. Declaration and signature of authorized representative of debtor

The debtor requests relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

I have been authorized to file this petition on behalf of the debtor.

I have examined the information in this petition and have a reasonable belief that the information is true and correct.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on March 13, 2018
MM / DD / YYYY

/s/ Wayne M. LaPorte
Signature of authorized representative of debtor

Title President

Wayne M. LaPorte
Printed name

18. Signature of attorney

/s/ Buddy D. Ford, Esquire
Signature of attorney for debtor

Date March 13, 2018
MM / DD / YYYY

Buddy D. Ford, Esquire 0654711
Printed name

Buddy D. Ford, P.A.
Firm name

9301 West Hillsborough Avenue
Tampa, FL 33615-3008
Number, Street, City, State & ZIP Code

Contact phone (813)877-4669 Email address All@tampaesq.com

0654711 FL
Bar number and State

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
Tampa Division

In the Matter of: }
LAPORTE INVESTMENT HOLDINGS, INC., } Chapter 11
Debtor, } Case No: 8:18-bk-
_____ }

STATEMENT REGARDING AUTHORITY TO SIGN AND FILE PETITION

I, *Wayne M. LaPorte*, declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am the President of LAPORTE INVESTMENT HOLDINGS, INC. (the "Corporation"), and that the following is a true and correct copy of the resolutions adopted by the Director(s) of said corporation at a special meeting duly called and held on the 13th day of March, 2018.

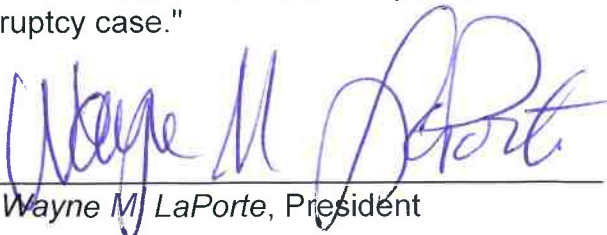
"**Whereas**, it is in the best interest of this corporation to file a voluntary petition in the United States Bankruptcy Court pursuant to Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Code;

Be It Therefore Resolved, that *Wayne M. LaPorte*, President of this corporation, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver all documents necessary to perfect the filing of a chapter voluntary bankruptcy case on behalf of the corporation; and

Be It Further Resolved, that *Wayne M. LaPorte*, President of this corporation is authorized and directed to appear in all bankruptcy proceedings on behalf of the corporation, and to otherwise do and perform all acts and deeds and to execute and deliver all necessary documents on behalf of the corporation in connection with such bankruptcy case, and

Be It Further Resolved, that *Wayne M. LaPorte*, President of this corporation is authorized and directed to employ Buddy D. Ford, Esquire, Florida Bar #0654711, attorney and the law firm of *Buddy D. Ford, P.A., 115 N. MacDill Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33609*, to represent the corporation in such bankruptcy case."

Date 3/13/18

Signed 
Wayne M. LaPorte, President

Fill in this information to identify the case:

Debtor name **LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc.**
 United States Bankruptcy Court for the: **MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**
 Case number (if known): _____

Check if this is an
 amended filing

Official Form 204**Chapter 11 or Chapter 9 Cases: List of Creditors Who Have the 20 Largest Unsecured Claims and Are Not Insiders**

12/15

A list of creditors holding the 20 largest unsecured claims must be filed in a Chapter 11 or Chapter 9 case. Include claims which the debtor disputes. Do not include claims by any person or entity who is an insider, as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(31). Also, do not include claims by secured creditors, unless the unsecured claim resulting from inadequate collateral value places the creditor among the holders of the 20 largest unsecured claims.

Name of creditor and complete mailing address, including zip code	Name, telephone number and email address of creditor contact	Nature of claim (for example, trade debts, bank loans, professional services, and government contracts)	Indicate if claim is contingent, unliquidated, or disputed	Amount of claim If the claim is fully unsecured, fill in only unsecured claim amount. If claim is partially secured, fill in total claim amount and deduction for value of collateral or setoff to calculate unsecured claim.		
				Total claim, if partially secured	Deduction for value of collateral or setoff	Unsecured claim
American Momentum Bank / SBA 2601 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, TX 78705-4294		512 Sixth Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881	Unliquidated	\$1,900,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$1,400,000.00
Internal Revenue Service PO Box 7346 Philadelphia, PA 19101-7346		Taxes				\$100,000.00
Fifth Third Bank 5050 Kingsley 1M0C2J Cincinnati, OH 45263		Credit Line				\$93,616.49
Owen K. Dowdy 216 McLean Point Winter Haven, FL 33884		Judgment				\$52,500.00
American Express PO Box 981535 El Paso, TX 79998-1535		Credit Cards				\$48,265.05
Department of Revenue PO Box 6668 Tallahassee, FL 32314		Taxes	Disputed			\$47,929.73
American Express PO Box 981535 El Paso, TX 79998-1535		Credit Cards				\$40,829.38

Debtor LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc.
Name

Case number (if known) _____

Name of creditor and complete mailing address, including zip code	Name, telephone number and email address of creditor contact	Nature of claim (for example, trade debts, bank loans, professional services,	Indicate if claim is contingent, unliquidated, or disputed	Amount of claim If the claim is fully unsecured, fill in only unsecured claim amount. If claim is partially secured, fill in total claim amount and deduction for value of collateral or setoff to calculate unsecured claim.		
				Total claim, if partially secured	Deduction for value of collateral or setoff	Unsecured claim
N.Glantz & Son PO Box 856300 Dept 109 Louisville, KY 40285-6300		Critical Vendor				\$16,854.08
Discover PO Box 30943 Salt Lake City, UT 84130		Credit Card				\$10,894.00
Comenity Capital Bank Bankruptcy Department PO Box 183043 Columbus, OH 43218-3043		Credit Card				\$9,427.97
Capital One P.O. Box 30285 Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0285		Credit Card				\$8,751.75

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Middle District of Florida**

In re LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc.

Debtor(s)

Case No.

Chapter 11

LIST OF EQUITY SECURITY HOLDERS

Following is the list of the Debtor's equity security holders which is prepared in accordance with rule 1007(a)(3) for filing in this Chapter 11 Case

Name and last known address or place of business of holder	Security Class	Number of Securities	Kind of Interest
Kimberly K. LaPorte 3135 Marble Credit Drive Land O Lakes, FL 34638			48%
Wayne M. LaPorte 3135 Marble Crest Drive Land O Lakes, FL 34638			52%

DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY ON BEHALF OF CORPORATION OR PARTNERSHIP

I, the **President** of the corporation named as the debtor in this case, declare under penalty of perjury that I have read the foregoing List of Equity Security Holders and that it is true and correct to the best of my information and belief.

Date March 13, 2018

Signature /s/ Wayne M. LaPorte
Wayne M. LaPorte

*Penalty for making a false statement of concealing property: Fine of up to \$500,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years or both.
18 U.S.C. §§ 152 and 3571.*

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Middle District of Florida**

In re LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc. Debtor(s) Case No. _____
Chapter 11

VERIFICATION OF CREDITOR MATRIX

I, the President of the corporation named as the debtor in this case, hereby verify that the attached list of creditors is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Date: March 13, 2018

/s/ Wayne M. LaPorte
Wayne M. LaPorte/President
Signer/Title

LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc.
3135 Marble Crest Drive
Land O Lakes, FL 34638

Buddy D. Ford, Esquire
Buddy D. Ford, P.A.
9301 West Hillsborough Avenue
Tampa, FL 33615-3008

American Express
PO Box 981535
El Paso, TX 79998-1535

American Express
c/o Becket and Lee LLP
PO Box 3001
Malvern, PA 19355

American Momentum Bank / SBA
2601 North Lamar Boulevard,
Austin, TX 78705-4294

Capital One
P.O. Box 30285
Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0285

Comenity Capital Bank
Bankruptcy Department
PO Box 183043
Columbus, OH 43218-3043

Department of Revenue
PO Box 6668
Tallahassee, FL 32314

Discover
PO Box 30943
Salt Lake City, UT 84130

Discover
PO Box 15316
Wilmington, DE 19850

Fifth Third Bank
5050 Kingsley 1M0C2J
Cincinnati, OH 45263

Internal Revenue Service
PO Box 7346
Philadelphia, PA 19101-7346

Kimberly K. LaPorte
3135 Marble Credit Drive
Land O Lakes, FL 34638

N.Glantz & Son
PO Box 856300 Dept 109
Louisville, KY 40285-6300

Owen K. Dowdy
216 McLean Point
Winter Haven, FL 33884

Owen K. Dowdy
c/o Straughn & Turner, PA
255 Magnolia Ave. SW
PO Box 2295
Winter Haven, FL 33883

US Small Business Admin
c/o US Attorneys Office
"Civil Process Clerk"
400 N. Tampa Street
Tampa, FL 33602

US Small Business Admin
c/o US Attorney General
10th St. & Constitution Ave.
Washington, DC 20530

US Small Business Admin
c/o Dept of Justice, Tax Div
PO Box 14198
Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044

US Small Business Admin.
c/o Dept Of Justice, Tax Div
Attorney General
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Wayne M. LaPorte
3135 Marble Crest Drive
Land O Lakes, FL 34638

B2030 (Form 2030) (12/15)

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Middle District of Florida**

In re LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc.

Debtor(s)

Case No.

Chapter 11

DISCLOSURE OF COMPENSATION OF ATTORNEY FOR DEBTOR(S)

1. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 329(a) and Fed. Bankr. P. 2016(b), I certify that I am the attorney for the above named debtor(s) and that compensation paid to me within one year before the filing of the petition in bankruptcy, or agreed to be paid to me, for services rendered or to be rendered on behalf of the debtor(s) in contemplation of or in connection with the bankruptcy case is as follows:

For legal services, I have agreed to accept	\$	<u>15,000.00</u>
Prior to the filing of this statement I have received	\$	<u>15,000.00</u>
Balance Due	\$	<u>0.00</u>

2. \$ 1,717.00 of the filing fee has been paid.

3. The source of the compensation paid to me was:

Debtor Other (specify):

4. The source of compensation to be paid to me is:

Debtor Other (specify):

5. I have not agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with any other person unless they are members and associates of my law firm.

I have agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with a person or persons who are not members or associates of my law firm. A copy of the agreement, together with a list of the names of the people sharing in the compensation is attached.

6. In return for the above-disclosed fee, I have agreed to render legal service for all aspects of the bankruptcy case, including:

- a. Analysis of the debtor's financial situation, and rendering advice to the debtor in determining whether to file a petition in bankruptcy;
- b. Preparation and filing of any petition, schedules, statement of affairs and plan which may be required;
- c. Representation of the debtor at the meeting of creditors and confirmation hearing, and any adjourned hearings thereof;
- d. [Other provisions as needed]

7. By agreement with the debtor(s), the above-disclosed fee does not include the following service:

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a complete statement of any agreement or arrangement for payment to me for representation of the debtor(s) in this bankruptcy proceeding.

March 13, 2018

Date

/s/ Buddy D. Ford, Esquire

Buddy D. Ford, Esquire 0654711

Signature of Attorney

Buddy D. Ford, P.A.

9301 West Hillsborough Avenue

Tampa, FL 33615-3008

(813)877-4669 Fax: (813)877-5543

All@tampaesq.com

Name of law firm

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Middle District of Florida**

In re LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc.
Debtor(s)

Case No. _____
Chapter 11

CORPORATE OWNERSHIP STATEMENT (RULE 7007.1)

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 7007.1 and to enable the Judges to evaluate possible disqualification or recusal, the undersigned counsel for LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc. in the above captioned action, certifies that the following is a (are) corporation(s), other than the debtor or a governmental unit, that directly or indirectly own(s) 10% or more of any class of the corporation's(s') equity interests, or states that there are no entities to report under FRBP 7007.1:

None [*Check if applicable*]

March 13, 2018
Date

/s/ Buddy D. Ford, Esquire
Buddy D. Ford, Esquire 0654711
Signature of Attorney or Litigant
Counsel for LaPorte Investment Holdings, Inc.
Buddy D. Ford, P.A.
9301 West Hillsborough Avenue
Tampa, FL 33615-3008
(813)877-4669 Fax:(813)877-5543
All@tampaesq.com