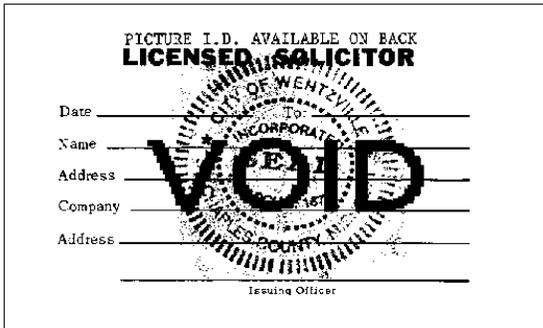
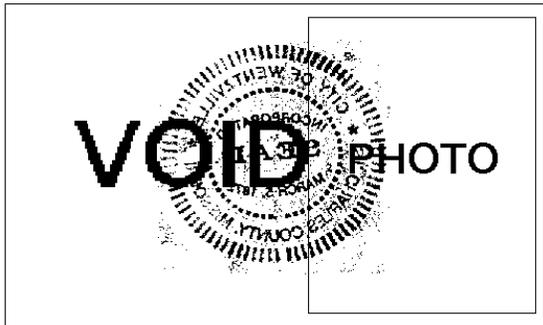




# Facts About: Solicitors



Front: Bearing raised seal and signature of City Clerk



Back: Bearing photograph of solicitor

Door-to-door sales provide a legitimate source of employment and income helping business find alternative cost effective ways to contact new customers. Many businesses are relying more heavily on door-to-door sales as they fight to stay competitive.

This method of sales can pose a risk to the citizens of our community. Scam artist can disguise fraudulent behavior as legitimate business in a door-to-door sales approach. Some scams use young adults going door-to-door telling the customer, "If you buy magazines I may get a trip to Europe." In fact no prize exists for the salesman, and you overpay for a magazine that you may never receive. A ruling from the Supreme Court allows a municipality to establish requirements for door-to-door solicitation not pertaining to political, Educational, or religious solicitation, and is restricted from prohibiting solicitation outright. To help protect you, the city of Wentzville has enacted an ordinance requiring all door-to-door solicitors to obtain a permit to conduct business.

**SECTION 610.025: GENERAL PROHIBITIONS**

A. No solicitor or canvasser shall:

1. Enter upon any private property where the property has clearly posted in the front yard a sign visible from the right-of-way (public or private) indicating a prohibition against peddling, soliciting and/or canvassing. Such sign need not exceed one (1) square foot in size and may contain words such as “no soliciting” or “no solicitors” and also shall prohibit canvassers.
2. Remain upon any private property where a notice upon any door or entranceway in the form of a sign is placed leading into the residence or dwelling through which guests would normally enter, which sign contains the words “no soliciting” or “no solicitors” and is clearly visible to the solicitor or canvasser.
3. Use or attempt to use any entrance other than the front or main entrance to the dwelling, or step from the sidewalk or indicated walkway (where one exists) leading from the right-of-way to the front or main entrance, except by express invitation of the resident or occupant of the property.
4. Remove any yard sign, door or entrance sign that give notice to such person that the resident or occupant does not invite visitors.
5. Enter upon the property of another except between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and dusk. (Ord. No. 1906 §2, 10-23-02)

The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to fundraising activities by or for bona fide religious, educational or charitable organizations. (CC 1988 §24-57; Ord. No. 1061 §2, 1-10-90)

**SECTION 610.030: LICENSE REQUIRED**

It shall be unlawful for any solicitor or canvasser to engage in such business or activity within the City limits without first obtaining a license therefore in compliance with the provisions of this Chapter. (CC 1988 §24-58; Ord. No. 1061 §3, 1-10-90)

During any one (1) calendar year shall be required after the licensee shall have paid an amount equal to the annual license as prescribed in Subsection (A). (CC 1988 §24-60; Ord. No. 1061 §5, 1-10-90; Ord. No. 1157 §1(C), 9-9-92)

**SECTION 610.100: BADGE**

The City Clerk shall issue to each licensee at the time of delivery of the license as required by this Chapter a badge which shall contain the words “*licensed solicitor*”, the period for which the license is issued and the number of the license in letters and figures easily discernible from a distance of ten (10) feet. Such badge shall, during the time such licensee is engaged in soliciting or canvassing, be worn constantly by the licensee on the front of his/her outer garment in such a way as to be conspicuous. (CC 1988 §24-65; Ord. No. 1061 §10, 1-10-90 par)

**SECTION 610.150: PENALTIES**

Any solicitor or canvasser who engages in unlawful practices as defined in Section 610.070 may be punished by a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or imprisonment for up to ninety (90) days, or both. (CC 1988 §24-70; Ord. No. 1061 §15, 1-10-90)

# FAQ

Q: Can my child sell products for boy scouts or school without a permit?

A: Yes. Wentzville city ordinance allows religious, educational or charitable organizations to sell with no permit.

Q: What can I do if a salesman comes to my door?

A: Be polite; most sales people are legitimate. You can ask to see their permit from the city of Wentzville, which has a picture ID and is required to be displayed.

Q: What if I suspect a salesman is soliciting without a permit?

A: Don't handle the problem yourself. Simply contact the Wentzville Police Department. Police officers will locate the salesman and confirm if a permit was obtained.

Q: What if I suspect a scam?

A: Contact the Wentzville Police Department (636) 327-5105.

Q: What happens to a solicitor with no permit?

A: Fines can be assessed up to \$500 and/or 90 days in jail per offense, if found guilty.

Q: Can I stop solicitors from coming to my house?

A: Yes, by placing a sign on your door or the entranceway to your home or business that reads "no soliciting" or "no solicitors".



Wentzville Police Department  
1019 Schroeder Creek Drive  
Wentzville, MO 63385  
(636) 327-5105