

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITING INFORMATION FOR SOLICITORS



Before soliciting in the City of Mercer Island, you must obtain a City of Mercer Island Soliciting License.

The application form is available on the City's website at www.mercerisland.gov/soliciting or at Mercer Island City Hall (9611 SE 36th Street, Mercer Island).

License Requirements:

- Completely fill out the application form.
- Provide proof showing that you are affiliated with the organization with which you are soliciting.
- Pay the \$30.00 license fee. The license will expire one year from issuance.
- Each solicitor must have his or her own license. Licenses are not transferable and are issued to individuals, not to organizations or supervisors.
- The City will stamp and sign off on the application form only when all pertinent information is provided.

Solicitor Responsibilities:

- You must carry your license at all times when soliciting door-to-door and display the license if requested by any police officer or any person solicited.
- Soliciting is only allowed between the hours of 10:00 AM and 9:00 PM, including weekends and holidays.
- You cannot solicit at any home, residence, apartment complex or business that prominently displays a "No Solicitors" or "No Peddlers" sign or any other similar sign that communicates the occupants' desire not to be contacted by solicitors.

License Exemptions:

The following are exempt from the licensing and application requirements under this chapter, but must comply with MICC 5.16.020:

- Newspaper carriers
- Not-for-profit solicitors *[(1) a person who either requests contributions or gifts of money, clothing, or any other valuable item for the support or benefit of a religion, creed, political cause, ideological position, and/or any other cause, charitable or non-profit organization, association or corporation, or (2) any person who proselytizes or canvases on behalf of a religion, creed, political cause, ideological position, and/or any other cause, charitable or non-profit organization, association or corporation.]*
- Peddlers of fruits, vegetables, berries, eggs or any farm produce edibles raised, gathered, produced or manufactured by such person
- A person who, after having been requested by another to do so, calls upon that other person for the purpose of displaying or delivering goods, literature or giving information about any article, thing, product or service
- All persons under the age of eighteen unless employed by another person or organization.

Please Note:

The City may revoke a license upon finding that the solicitor or the solicitor's firm or organization is in violation of any city licensing ordinances.

CITY OF MERCER ISLAND DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITING INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS



1. Does the City of Mercer Island require solicitors to have a license?

Yes, the City's ordinance requires solicitors to obtain a license.

2. Who issues the license?

Licenses are issued by the City of Mercer Island City Clerk's Office. Each solicitor must have a license issued by the City Clerk's Office. The license is the approved application form with a City official's initials and the official corporate seal of the City of Mercer Island in the bottom right corner.

3. How can I keep solicitors away from my home?

You can post a "No Soliciting" or "No Peddlers" sign that is clearly visible at your home. Solicitors who then approach your door after seeing the sign are violating the ordinance; you can call the Mercer Island Police Department's non-emergency number at 425-577-5656 or, if necessary, call 911.

4. How do I know if a solicitor has a valid license?

Each person is issued a license from the City Clerk's Office. Solicitors must carry their license at all times when soliciting and must display their license upon request (see #2 above). If the solicitor cannot produce a license, you can call the Mercer Island Police Department's non-emergency number at 425-577-5656.

5. What times can solicitors go door to door?

Solicitors are allowed to solicit between the hours of 10:00 AM and 9:00 PM. If someone comes before 10:00 AM or after 9:00 PM, you can call the Mercer Island Police Department's non-emergency number at 425-577-5656 to report him or her.

6. How can I find out more information about a charity?

To verify if a charity or fundraiser is registered with the state and to get further information about the organization's financial and charitable activities, you may contact the Washington Secretary of State Charities Program at 1-800-332-4483, or online at www.sos.wa.gov/charities.

7. Can solicitors be fined if they are found to be in violation?

Yes, violators of the ordinance can be assessed a monetary penalty of \$124.

Other Tips and Cautions

- If a solicitor comes to your door, ask to see his or her solicitor license and printed materials regarding their organization.
- Contact the beneficiaries of the charitable funds to determine if they are aware of the solicitation and have authorized use of their name.
- Ask how the donations are used.
- Don't give in to high-pressure "hardball" solicitations that demand an instant commitment.
- If the organization is legitimate, it should be willing to give you time to make up your mind. Be wary of solicitors that offer to send a courier to collect your money immediately.

More information can be found on the City's website at www.mercerisland.gov/soliciting, including a link to Mercer Island Municipal Code Section 5.16, Regulation and Licensing of Solicitors.