

With weather warming up door-to-door solicitors tend to pop up out of nowhere. Door-to-door solicitors are only allowed to do business from sunrise to sunset. Here are some easy tips to find out if they are legitimate.

Business or Charity?

All businesses going door-to-door are required to have a City of American Canyon Business License. Use the city’s website to verify any business:

<https://businesslicense.cityofamericancanyon.org/PrimeWeb/Search/Index/BusinessLicense>

A solicitor is person or business attempting to take subscriptions, contracts or orders for goods, merchandise or services. Sometimes these people are referred to as peddlers, vendors, sales representatives or traveling salespersons.

These licenses are issued to the business with the name of the person who is going door-to-door. The person is required to carry the license along with identification when they are going door-to-door. This is a sample:



How to be sure it’s a charity?

If the individual going door-to-door is for a legitimate non-profit or charitable organization they are required to show proof however they are not required to have a city Business License. The person can show a copy of the IRS 501c3 Letter.

The Better Business Bureau runs a website www.give.org dedicated to accrediting charitable organization. Professional Fundraising organizations that solicit on behalf of a charity are not exempt from a Business License.

Do Telemarketers ever stop calling?

Yes and no. The National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls. Register your home or mobile number at www.donotcall.gov . If you’ve already registered use this site to report unwanted calls.

Beware of scammers. If the caller is asking for personal information, offering a promotion that seems too-good-to-be-true or pressuring you ask for identification, speak with a supervisor or hang up. Scam companies tend to represent themselves as a government agency as a means of force. And remember, the IRS does not make phone calls as a means of collection, ever.

Always report suspicious activity! If a person or business shows up at your door after sunset soliciting contact the Police Department at 707-253-4451. For questions about business licenses contact the City at 707-647-4354.