

CHAPTER 18

SOLICITORS AND PEDDLERS

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Sec. 18.1. "Solicitor" Defined

The term "solicitor" means a person who goes from door to door visiting multiple family or single family dwellings for the following purposes:

- (a) To sell any goods, wares, merchandise or services or accept subscriptions or orders thereof.
- (b) To accept or request donations for any charitable purpose.

Sec. 18.2. Registration Required

All persons, before entering into or upon a residential premises within the town for the purpose of soliciting, shall register with the mayor and furnish him with the following information:

- (a) The name, local and permanent addresses, age, race, weight, height, color of hair and eyes and any other distinguishing physical characteristics of the applicant.
- (b) The nature or purpose for which solicitations will be made and the nature of the goods, wares, merchandise or services offered for sale.
- (c) The name and permanent address of the employer or organization represented.
- (d) A statement as to whether the applicant has been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor and, if so, the nature of the offense, when and where convicted and the penalty or punishment assessed therefor.

Sec. 18.3. Permit

Upon furnishing the information required under section 13.2, the applicant shall be issued a permit, unless the information furnished in compliance with this chapter shows that the applicant has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude. A permit issued under this chapter shall be good for one year from the date of issuance, unless earlier revoked as provided in this chapter. Every solicitor shall carry his permit with him at all times while engaged in soliciting and shall display the same to any person who shall demand to see the same while he is so engaged.

Sec. 18.4. Fees

A fee of ten dollars to cover the costs of investigation of the applicant and processing of the application shall be paid to the mayor when the

application is filed and shall not be returnable under any circumstances.

Sec. 18.5. Prohibited Acts

No person shall:

- (a) Enter into or upon a residential premises in the town under false pretenses to solicit for any purpose or for the purpose of soliciting orders for the sale of goods, wares, merchandise or services.
- (b) Remain in or on any residential premises after the owner or occupant has requested any such person to leave.
- (c) Enter upon any residential premises for soliciting, when the owner or occupant has displayed a "No Soliciting" sign on such premises.
- (d) Engage in the practice of soliciting in the town without a permit as provided for in this chapter.
- (e) Knowingly give false information or withhold information in obtaining a permit.

Sec. 18.6. Peddlers

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to peddle or hawk goods, wares or merchandise on any of the streets or sidewalks of the town, except agricultural products produced by such person or his employer.
- (b) No person shall stop a vehicle upon the street at any time for the purpose of advertising any article of any kind or displaying thereupon or therefrom any articles for sale or selling such articles from such vehicle or advertising for sale the vehicle itself, unless the written permission of the mayor to do so is first obtained. (Code 1950, Section 12.4, 12.5.)

Sec. 18.7. Exceptions

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to:

- (a) Any person who visits any residence or apartment at the request or invitation of the owner or occupant thereof.
- (b) To unpaid members of any civic or charitable organization who have an approved means of identification provided by such organization.
- (c) Newsboys soliciting subscriptions to any newspaper for home delivery within the town.
- (d) Route deliverymen who make deliveries at least once a week to regular customers and whose solicitation is only incidental to their regular deliveries.
- (e) Persons selling fresh farm products.
- (f) Persons licensed under the provisions of Title 38.1 of the Code of Virginia.