

Free Speech

Some solicitation and canvassing activities have Federal protection through the 1st Amendment of the United States Constitution, as well as protections through Texas State law. The City may only regulate certain aspects of these activities, and cannot outright prohibit them.



Quick Facts

These quick facts are meant to provide a brief overview of the Solicitor's Ordinance in Southlake. The full Ordinance, Chapter 13 of the Southlake City Code, can be found online at www.CityofSouthlake.com

How to Obtain a Solicitor's Permit

An application for Solicitor's Permit must be submitted to the Southlake Police Department with additional information such as a driver's license or state issued identification and photographs of the applicant.



Southlake Police Department
600 State Street
Southlake, Texas 76092
(817) 748-8114

CITY OF
SOUTHLAKE



Quick Facts about Solicitation and Canvassing in the City of Southlake



What is soliciting and/or canvassing?

Solicitors and/or canvassers engage in personal contact with another person for the purpose of selling or soliciting items such as goods, wares, merchandise, magazine subscriptions, or a service. This requires a permit from the City.

Can a solicitor and/or canvasser ring my doorbell?

Yes, with the appropriate permit.

When is a solicitor and/or canvasser not allowed to ring my doorbell?

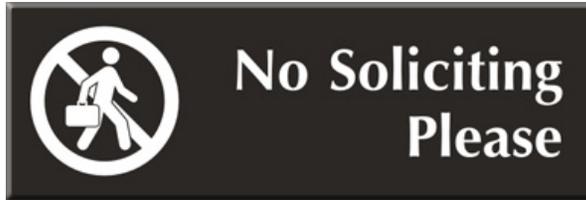
A person commits an offense if they engage in this activity before 9:00 am and/or whichever is earlier on a given day between after dark or 9:00 pm.

What if I do not want a solicitor and/or canvasser to ring my doorbell?

Conspicuously post notice that such activity is not welcomed with a sign not less than one inch by three inches in size containing the words "NO SOLICITORS," or words of similar meaning.

Solicitation and/or Canvassing are not permitted activities in the City of Southlake without the appropriate permit.

However, there are requirements that solicitors and canvassers must adhere to even after receiving a solicitor's permit.



Example of a No Soliciting Sign

The following activities are not considered solicitation or canvassing and do not require a permit in Southlake:

- Leaving handbills on doorknobs or under residential or commercial floor-mats
- State law allows licensed alarm companies to be exempt from obtaining a permit
- Political and religious speech

Tips for Dealing with Door to Door Solicitors

- If you do not want to engage with the solicitor say "no thank you" through the door and walk away
- If the solicitor does not go away peacefully after you ask - call the police
- Report aggressive or threatening solicitors to the police immediately - dial 9-1-1
- Report suspicious solicitors by calling the non-emergency dispatch line at (817) 743-4522
- Follow identity theft prevention guidelines by never giving your social security, credit card information or checks to anyone who solicits you, and you cannot verify they legitimately represent an organization or charity

