



ASOTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF M. RENZELMAN

CITY OF ASOTIN



Press Release Door-to-Door Solicitors

Asotin has seen an increase in door-to-door solicitors trying to conduct business. Those attempting to sell products, conduct business transactions or solicit work projects need a business license or a solicitor's license in most jurisdictions. Door-to-door solicitors can provide great products, but there are also risks associated with this type of transactions. Here are some safety tips when conducting transactions with them:

Always ask if they have a business license or solicitor's license, depending on what your jurisdiction requires, and ask to see it. If they do not have one, call the police. A business License or Solicitors license is not a guarantee on the product or people. It is just a "permit" to be able to do business or solicit in the city. Be cautious when making transactions with these types of salespeople, as there is no guarantee of their product or services. If you don't want them at your door, ask them to leave. If they don't leave, call the police. At any time, you can request they leave. After you request, they leave, it is trespassing for them to not leave the property. At any point you can ask them to leave.

Don't be pressured into a transaction at the time. Take time to do your research on any product or business being presented. Ask others who have had the job done. Preferably check with local people you can talk to person-to-person. Out of area people could be a business partner answering as a customer. You don't know if they have truly had the work done. Look at online reviews and what people have to say about the people and products. Talk to local businesses that do the same job before entering into a contract. If the salesperson has a problem with waiting a few days or a week, then they are not doing good business and should be examined closer.

If you do decide to conduct business with them and allow them in your residence, there are risks involved with this. Not all solicitors are bad, but there are some that use this to "case" residences. They can see what is in your residence, what type of security you have, i.e. alarms, dogs, or locks for example. They can also see what you have that may be valuable. If they are left unsupervised AT ALL, they can also steal items. They may ask to use the bathroom and make a side trip to other rooms unsupervised. They can also unlock windows or doors for easy entry later. ALWAYS keep them in sight and watch what they are doing.

If you do finish the transaction, be careful of payment options. If you give them your credit card information, or you give them a check that has the bank routing numbers on it as all checks do, they can access these accounts. Try and do transactions in cash, don't give out personal information; DOB, social security numbers, passwords, card information, bank information, or anything else that may be used for Identity theft.

Be very careful if you are conducting business with any unknown business or people. Not everyone is out for your best interests. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your local Law Enforcement office. The Public is our eyes and ears, so we don't always know what is occurring unless we are contacted.

Be Safe

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