

# Town of Wilbraham

## Solicitors

The doorbell rings, you answer it, and a young man starts his sales pitch. He introduces himself and seeks to capture your attention. The door-to-door sales person is a readily recognized American entrepreneur. These young men and women are willing to accept hundreds of refusals to make a few sales. This is a tough way to make a living and common during difficult economic times. Unfortunately, for all of the very good sales people there are a few who are antagonistic, combative or engaged in scams.

Wilbraham licenses solicitors and this includes door-to-door sales. Links to the regulations and procedures for obtaining Wilbraham solicitor permits are posted below. Depending on the type of business, other permits may also be required.

Residents are invited to contact the Police Department if they have any concerns or complaints about solicitors at 413-596-3837.

If a solicitor is assaultive or refuses to leave your property, call 9-1-1.

Not all people who come to your door are solicitors. Religious organizations, charitable or political groups are not bound by the laws governing solicitors. It is their right to canvass neighborhoods to speak about their organization or beliefs without obtaining any sort of permit. These groups are encouraged to contact the Police Department so we are familiar with their locations but this is not a requirement.

The worst case scenario is the scam artist who solicits business at your door. They notice that your house needs painting, the roof needs repair or the driveway needs sealing. They offer you a "bargain" price because they are in the neighborhood and have some time to fill. They will target older residents and ask for cash or immediate payment. Please call the Police Department immediately.

Many of these scam artists are well known to the police and we welcome the opportunity to meet them face to face. If you are uncomfortable with a sales person at your door, practice a polite refusal. "I know you are working hard but I do not do business at my front door. Thank you for understanding." Smile and close the door.