

Door-to-Door Sales Youth Awareness

Protecting Oklahoma youth from the dangers of door-to-door selling and fundraising.

SAFETY ALERT: There are some door-to-door companies in operation recruiting children as young as eight years old and taking them to unfamiliar neighborhoods, distant cities and even across state lines. These school-aged kids go door to door asking residents to buy their products to support fake charities and businesses.

Did you know?

- Many door-to-door companies are commercial enterprises which support bogus charities.
- Kids are attracted to these door-to-door companies because they believe it offers adventure, extra money, opportunity for advancement, positive environment, and experience.
- Kids are placed in potential risk when transported by van to distant cities or across state lines.
- Cases have been reported where minors engaged in door-to-door sales have been sexually assaulted or abused; deserted for not meeting sales quota; crammed into vans without seats or seat belts; maimed, killed, or forced to be servants; and victims of, or participants in, criminal activity.
- Approximately 50,000 children are working as youth peddlers on any given day of the year in very dangerous conditions.

Safety Precautions for Kids

- Determine whether you are dealing with a legitimate door-to-door company.
- Check with local police to see if the door-to-door company has a license or permit to operate.
- Make sure your parents have the employer's name, address, phone number, schedule, and the location where you work.
- Make sure you are paired with other kids rather than working alone.
- Make sure there is adult supervision at all times.
- Do not travel further than 10 miles away from home.

- Have an emergency plan in place in the event that you are dropped off on a street corner, taken across state lines, or asked to do something illegal.
- Do not ever enter a stranger's home.
- Be sure that you know your rights under the law.

If you are approached at your door by a youth peddler, have a parent or guardian:

- Get name and age of the young person.
- Get the group's name and address.
- Get the name and phone number of the young person's supervisor.
 - Ask where the young person's supervisor is.
 - Ask what the money supports.
 - Ask which schools have worked with the campaign.
 - Ask to see the seller's permit.
 - Ask how much the young person personally makes for each sale.

Other Considerations

- Consider door-to-door company suspicious if not heard of before.
- Save any literature given to you.
- Do not buy items if there is not an adult present.
- Have your parent or guardian report the door-to-door activity to the local police department and provide the name of the company, what is being sold, approximate age of the child and location where the sales activity was last seen.

Oklahoma Department of Labor

Lloyd L. Fields
Commissioner of Labor
Employment Standards Division
Child Labor Unit
1-888-269-5353, Toll-free, Statewide
labor.ok.gov

