

Law Snap Shots

January 2012

CHARITY COLLECTIONS HOUSE TO HOUSE

House to House Collections Regulations 1947

House to House Collections Act 1939

Anyone coming to your **door collecting for charity** must act under a licence or order authorising him or her to do so.

- Charitable purpose means any charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purpose.
- Collection means an appeal to the public made by means of visits from house to house for collection of money or property.
- The collection has to be made to raise money for charity.
- The **Promoter of the collection** is the person to apply for a licence authorising the collection but may then have collectors acting under that licence to actually collect.

The licence must include:

- **Name(s) of promoter(s),**
- **Purpose of the collection,**
- **Locality within which the collection is confined,**
- **Date of commencement,**
- **Date beyond which collection must not continue.**

Failure to apply for a licence or order is an offence.

PEDLARS ACT 1871 - PEDLARS CERTIFICATES

Anyone coming to your door wishing to sell items for their own gain must apply for a pedlar's certificate.

- The certificate is issued by the Police Force in the area where they live.
- The certificate remains in place for 12 months.
- The certificate must show any convictions for that person.
- The pedlar is then valid to sell goods any where in the UK, not just where they live.
- The certificate can only be cancelled by a court summons.
- The certificate cannot be transferred to another person.

The pedlar **MUST** produce the certificate upon demand of:

- A constable or officer of police,
- Any justice of the peace
- Any person to whom such pedlar offers his goods for sale
- Any person in whose private grounds or premises such pedlar is found.

If the pedlar fails to produce a valid certificate upon demand, he is guilty of an offence and can be prosecuted.

Note: There is no such document as a hawker's licence or certificate.

Issued by the Community Safety Dept at Police HQ, Lincolnshire Police.