



What do you do when...

- A sales person knocks on your front door and offers you the deal of a lifetime?
- A telephone caller offers you a great investment opportunity?
- A service person approaches you in your yard offering roof repair, tree trimming, driveway sealing, etc. at an unbelievable price?
- A telephone solicitor for a charitable organization asks for your donation?
- You receive mail offering introductory “free” trips, or merchandise if you just pay tax and/or call within 48 hours?

Read on ♦♦♦

Here is my best advice to you!

If you want to reduce your chances of being “conned” or defrauded, purchasing something you don’t need, or losing your donated money to a fundraising business, follow these four simple guidelines.

- *Do not do business in your yard.*
- *Do not do business at your front door.*
- *Do not do business over the phone.*
- *Do not respond to mail solicitations.*

...**unless** you initiated the contact.

Responses to these intrusions

Be simple, brief, and give no information

- In the yard - “Thank you. I am not interested.” Then walk away.
- At the front door - Without opening the door, “Thank you, I am not interested. Please leave.”
- On the telephone - “Thank you, no thank you.” Then hang up!
- Mail offers - Trash it!.

Identification, Licenses and Permits

Often people ask to see identification, state, county or city licenses or permits to do business. The problem is, if you don’t know what a real ID or license of permit look like, it does little good to look at what is presented to you.

Use the information presented to you to check with the appropriate state, county or city entity to verify the information, not as proof of who or what you are dealing with.

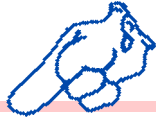
Be highly suspicious of...

- Anything offered for “free”
- Can’t miss investments
- High pressure sales
- Today only deals

Be aware of some of these cons ... and more

- Home Improvement, Repair and Service Contracts involving Roofs, Air Conditioning, Driveways, Appliances, Electrical, Plumbing, Rug Cleaning, etc.
- False charities
- Bills and solicitations after an obituary has been published
- Bank Examiners or Law Enforcement asking for your help in catching a dishonest employee
- Get rich quick investments
- Deceptive mail offers
- Real estate sales and investments

Protection Tips



Don't do business in your yard, at the front door, over the phone, or by mail unless you have initiated the contact. **(Have you read that before?)**

Check any needed licenses and permits.

Check references on your own. Check with your friends.

Check with Better Business bureaus and Consumer Affair organizations.

Give yourself time to think, read and analyze before you buy or sign a contract.

If you find yourself in the middle of what you think is a "con" or any problem, take a step back, take a deep breath, give yourself a chance to think, and if needed, call the police to help. **You are not bothering us!**

Above all, remember this ...

If it sounds too good to be true ... it probably is!

Clearwater Police Department

645 Pierce Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756



Con Games and Fraud



"If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!"