



## Solicitor Related Crime Prevention and Safety Tips

- Follow identify theft prevention guidelines by never giving credit card or a check to anyone who solicits you and you do not know. It is often very difficult to determine if someone is legitimately representing a real organization or charity.
- Never open the door to someone you do not know.
- Always look through the peep hole or window and see who it is.
- Teach your children what to do if they are alone and someone comes to the home or is looking in windows.
- If you do not know them, say “No thank you” through the door and walk away.
- Do not get into a conversation with a solicitor through the door.
- If solicitors try to approach you while you are outside, say, “No thank you,” walk back into your house and close and lock your door.
- If the solicitor does not go peaceably on their way, call the police (911) for assistance.
- If you do have contact with a solicitor, verify their solicitor’s permit issued by The Village of Winfield Police Department.
- Look for suspicious behavior such as looking in car windows, testing doors for locks, or entering back yards.
- Call your neighbors and warn them to also watch for suspicious activity.
- If you notice anything suspicious, please call the police department **when the activity is happening.**
- **Never allow a solicitor to enter inside your home. If they force or talk their way in, call 911 immediately.**

Working together with neighbors and the police, not opening the doors, and monitoring a solicitors' behavior is the best way to reduce the risk for soliciting-related crime.