

Warning Signs

Telemarketers who claim you've won a prize or free vacation, but you must attend a presentation with your spouse.

Telemarketers who will not take "no" for an answer.

Telemarketers who refuse to give you information in writing.

Telemarketers who claim they'll send someone right over to get your money.

Telemarketers who try to pressure you into making an immediate decision.

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Telemarketing Fraud Complaint Numbers

**Johnson County District
Attorney's Consumer Protection**

**Hotline:
(913)715-3003**

**Johnson County District
Attorney's Website**

www.jocogov.org

**Federal Trade Commission
1-877-FTC-HELP**

To get your name removed from a telemarketing company's mailing list, contact:

**Telephone Preference Service
Direct Marketing Association**

P.O. Box 9014

Farmingdale, New York 11735

To remove your telephone number contact the National No Call at:

<https://www.donotcall.gov/>

Toll Free: 1-888-382-1222

TTY: 1-866-290-4236

TELEMARKETING FRAUD



From the
Office of the District Attorney
Tenth Judicial District

Stephen M. Howe
District Attorney

Johnson County, Kansas



INTRODUCTION

National statistics show consumers lose billions of dollars a year to con artists who use the telephone to peddle cheap products, fake prizes, worthless vacations, and phony promises of getting rich.

These telemarketing bandits also dupe consumers into contributing to what sound like legitimate charities. But, in many cases, the fundraisers keep most of your donation for “operating expenses” and your contributions end up lining the telemarketers’ pockets.

Each year, our Consumer Protection Division receives scores of complaints from consumers who say unscrupulous telemarketers high pressured them out of thousands of dollars.

Is there any way to stop these phone bandits and protect yourself and your pocketbooks?

Yes. And this brochure will give you important tips on what to do when a telemarketer calls.

The Law

Under Kansas law, telemarketers must end a call when you give them a negative response. That’s why it’s important to say no when they call.

If you are on the No Call Registry and you are contacted by a telemarketer this may be a violation of the No Call Act.

Telemarketing companies must end a call in 25 seconds if it comes from an automatic dialing device.

Telemarketers are prohibited from using professional couriers to pick up money unless the consumer can inspect the product before payment.

A live operator or recording must come on the line in five seconds if the telemarketers use a computer to make the call.

Federal law also prohibits using recorded solicitations unless the consumer requested the call, has a relationship with the company, or the company is a non-profit organization.

Protect Yourself

The best way to protect yourself from telemarketing fraud is to hang up when you receive a suspicious call.

You can also protect yourself by never giving credit card, bank account numbers or personal information to any stranger who calls you on the phone.

Be wary of anyone who claims they need money for an investment or a charity and want immediate cash or a pledge.

Be leery of anyone who refuses to tell you the name, address, and phone number of the company they represent. Reputable companies will always supply that information.

Begin by registering on the National Do Not Call List, This listing does not apply to charitable organization and/or market survey companies only to telemarketers.