Whitfield County, GA
Solicitor Permit Application

Whitfield County has established the following application to allow for registration of persons, firms, or corporations to engage in the business of soliciting or calling on residences door-to-door in accordance with Whitfield County Ordinance CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE III OF THE WHITFIELD COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES**.**

By way of example, soliciting includes activities including seeking to: obtain orders for the purchase of goods, wares, merchandise, foodstuffs, services of any kind, character or description; seeking to obtain prospective customers for application or purchase of insurance or publication of any type; and seeking to obtain subscriptions to books, magazines, periodicals, newspapers, and other types of publications.

This excludes solicitation for charitable, political, or other nonprofit purposes provided that all sales proceeds are the property of and used by the nonprofit organization. This also excludes officers or employees of the city, county, state, or federal governments, or any subdivision thereof, when on official business.

Solicitor Permits are issued to individual applicants and each person shall at all times while soliciting in Whitfield County carry upon his or her person the permit so issued to be exhibited by such solicitor whenever he or she is requested to do so by any police officer or person solicited.

Permits for residential solicitation shall be issued for a period of two (2) consecutive weeks only and may be renewed only once during each calendar year, providing no complaints have been received or other violations have occurred.

Individuals applying for the permit shall make themselves available for background check/fingerprinting, and such other investigation as may be required by the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office.

Fingerprinting Instructions

All applicants are required to complete fingerprinting through the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office. Applicants are responsible for all fingerprinting fees. Upon completion, fingerprints will be transmitted to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for processing. Permit approval is contingent upon receipt of satisfactory results.

Fingerprinting is performed at the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office at 805 Professional Blvd, Dalton, GA. Please call the Sheriff's Office at 706-876-1520 for more information

Please submit the following Door to Door Solicitor Permit Application to the Whitfield County Clerks Office located at 201 S. Hamilton Street, 5th Floor, Dalton, GA. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the County Clerks Office at 706-275-7500.

Solicitor Permit Fees:

- ❑ Application/Permit Fee $40.00
- ❑ Renewal Permit Fee $25.00
- ❑ Additional Identification Badges $15.00

This fee shall also be made payable to Whitfield County BOC in the form of a cashiers check, money order or exact cash.

Solicitation activities will be conducted as follows:
Only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard time
No Sundays or Holidays

Whitfield County Solicitor Permit Application

Date of Application:_____

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Legal Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Physical Description/Height/Weight/Race/Hair Color/Eye Color/Sex:

_____

Government Issued ID (DL or Passport): _____

Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes _____ No_____

If no, you will need to have your Permanent Resident Card available.

EMPLOYER / BUSINESS INFORMATION:

Employer Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Supervisor Name and Phone: _____

Proof of Employment Attached: Yes / No _____

***Any person working as an employee of a business shall demonstrate proof of employment from the owner of the business along with written permission from the owner to apply for a permit. Proof of employment may constitute two (2) current paycheck stubs or evidence of an employment agreement.**

***An independent contractor (persons independently employed or receiving 1099 forms instead of a W-2 form) must apply for separate permits personally.**

SOLICITATION DETAILS:

Description of Goods/Services: _____

Requested Permit Dates: _____

VEHICLE INFORMATION:

Make/Model/Color:_____

Tag Number:_____

Vehicle Photos Attached: Yes / No_____

***Two (2) photos of each vehicle (front/side view and rear/side view,) along with photographs of the vehicle license plate. Information shall be provided to the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office**

Signature of Applicant:_____ Date:_____

2026 CONSENT FORM
WHITFIELD COUNTY, GEORGIA
DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITOR PERMIT

I_____ HEREBY AUTHORIZE THE WHITFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO RECEIVE AND REVIEW ANY CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION PERTAINING TO ME, WHICH MAY BE IN THE FILES OF ANY FEDERAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY AND STATE OR LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCY IN GEORGIA. THIS AUTHORIZATION SHALL BE CONTINUING UNTIL REVOKED IN WRITING BY ME.

(PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOUR FINGERPRINTS WILL BE CHECKED AGAINST THE FBI DATABASE)

FULL NAME PRINTED
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE & ZIP
MAIDEN NAME OR PREVIOUSLY USED NAMES

SEX	RACE	DATE OF BIRTH	SOCIAL SECURITY #

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

WHITFIELD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE USE ONLY
CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that_____, the above stated applicant, does not have a criminal record on file.

DATE_____ SHERIFF'S OFFICE _____

Chapter 10

Article III. Door-to-Door Solicitation.

Sec. 10-31. Definitions

A. *Applicant* shall mean the person seeking a permit.

B. *Canvasser* shall mean one who offers one or more services or goods for sale to residents or one who seeks political support or inquiries as to issues of public opinion or sentiments. This term shall be interchangeable with "solicitor" and "peddler."

C. *Canvassing* shall mean travelling from place to place or door-to-door, on foot or in a vehicle, and offering to sell goods or services, or the seeking of political support or the act of inquiring as to issues of public opinion or sentiment. This term shall be interchangeable with "soliciting" and "peddling."

D. *Goods* shall mean any sort of personal property, including, but not limited to, brushes, vacuums, knives, magazines, newspapers, luggage, housewares, electronics, computers, furniture, food, agricultural products, flowers, tools, clothing, decorative accessories, rugs, paintings, sculpture, dishes, and other types of wares and merchandise.

E. *Peddler* shall mean one who offers goods or merchandise for sale along the street or from door-to-door or house-to-house on behalf of a business, or individual; one who engages in peddling. This term shall be interchangeable with "canvasser" and solicitor."

F. *Peddling* or *to Peddle* shall mean traveling from place to place or door-to- door on foot or a bicycle, or in a vehicle and exhibiting, offering to sell or selling goods or services to households, businesses or passers-by. It shall also mean traveling from place to place or door-to-door taking orders for the sale of goods or services for delivery later. Visits by sales representatives pursuant to a previously arranged appointment with a specific business or person or as a part of an on-going business relationship shall not be deemed peddling. This term shall be interchangeable with "canvassing" and "soliciting."

G. *Permit* shall mean the authorization by the Whitfield County Clerk granting a canvasser, peddler or solicitor permission to canvass, peddle or solicit in Whitfield County, and shall be referred to as a "solicitor permit."

H. *Services* shall mean the provisions of any sort of professional or trade service to another, to include general maintenance, construction, painting, garbage pickup, lawn services, house cleaning, motor repair, appliance repair, etc.

I. *Solicitor* shall mean one who offers one (1) or more services or goods for sale to residents or request contributions by either traveling from place to place or door-to-door on foot or in a vehicle. This term shall be interchangeable with "canvasser" and "peddler."

J. *Soliciting* shall mean traveling from place to place or door-to-door on foot or in a vehicle and exhibiting, offering to sell or selling goods or services to households, businesses or passers-by or requesting contributions. This term shall be interchangeable with "canvassing" and "peddling."

Sec. 10-32. General Information

A. Any person, firm or corporation engaging as a canvasser, solicitor, or peddler in person at residences and/or places of business in the unincorporated areas of Whitfield County, with or without the consent or invitation of the owner or occupant for the purpose of canvassing, soliciting, or peddling goods or services of any kind, including giving away any goods or services, shall be referred to as a "solicitor."

B. Any person, firm or corporation engaging or offering as a canvasser, solicitor, or peddler in person at residencies and places of business in the unincorporated

areas Whitfield County, with or without the consent or invitation of the occupant for the purpose of canvassing, soliciting, or peddling goods or services of any kind, including giving away goods or services, shall be required to obtain a permit and an identification badge.

Sec. 10-33. Registration and permit required.

A. A solicitor, prior to soliciting goods or services of any kind, including giving away any goods or services in person at residences and places of business in the unincorporated area of the county without the consent or invitation of the occupant shall:
    1. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age at the time of the application;
    2. Be a citizen of the United States or lawfully present in the United States;
    3. File an application for and receive a permit from the County Clerk;

B. Persons requesting a permit for soliciting door-to-door in private residential areas shall be required to produce information for each vehicle(s) being used, including two (2) photos of each vehicle (front/side view and rear/side view,) along with photographs of the vehicle license plate. Such information shall be provided to the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office.

C. Any person working as an employee of a business shall demonstrate proof of employment from the owner of the business along with written permission from the owner to apply for a permit. Proof of employment may constitute two (2) current paycheck stubs or evidence of an employment agreement.

D. An independent contractor (persons independently employed or receiving 1099 forms instead of a W-2 form) must apply for separate permits personally.

E. All applications for a permit must include, at a minimum, the following information and shall be signed by the applicant:
    1. Name and address of the applicant;
    2. Date of Birth;
    3. Social Security Number;
    4. Physical description;
    5. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant's employer;
    6. Name, address and telephone number of the applicant's supervisor;
    7. Brief description of goods or services to be sold;
    8. Description of motor vehicle(s) to be used by the applicant in conducting the canvassing or solicitation;
    9. Release to obtain a criminal history; and
    10. Photocopy of driver's license or passport of the applicant.

Sec. 10-34. Fees

A. The fee for a solicitor's permit shall be forty dollars ($40.00) for each permit. This fee shall include the application, background investigation, copy of the solicitation code, and one (1) identification (ID) badge.
B. To the extent additional ID badges are required for additional employees or other persons under the same permit, each additional ID badge shall be fifteen dollars ($15.00.)
C. Permits for residential solicitation shall be issued for a period of two (2) consecutive weeks only and may be renewed only once during each calendar year, providing no complaints have been received or other violations have occurred.
D. The renewal fee shall be $25.00.
E. Fees shall be non-refundable.

Sec. 10-35. Authorization of permit

A. A permit shall be granted or denied after an investigation of the applicant and any canvassers, solicitors, peddlers, named in the application.
   1. Upon approval for the application and issuance of a permit to canvass, solicit, or peddle, an identification badge will be issued to the applicant.
   2. Each solicitor must wear the identification badge issued by the County Clerk at all times while canvassing, soliciting, or peddling is underway, and show other photo identification if requested by any homeowner, resident, county employee or law enforcement personnel.
   3. Permits shall be displayed at the request of any citizen or law enforcement personnel.
   4. It shall be a violation hereof to fail or refuse to display a permit or official identification badge when requested.

Sec. 10-36. Investigation and background check.

A. A background investigation to review the criminal history records of the applicant is required prior to the issuance of a permit.

B. A government issued identification is required of the applicant.

C. Fingerprints of the applicant shall be taken by the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office for identification and background check purposes. The applicant shall be responsible for all associated charges.
   1. Upon receipt of the fingerprints and the appropriate fees, the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office will transmit both sets of fingerprints to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). The GBI will compare the subject's fingerprints against its criminal file and, if no disqualifying conduct is found therein, it will submit the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for comparison with nationwide records.
   2. The results of the FBI check will be returned to the GBI which will disseminate the state and national results to the Whitfield County Sheriff's Office.

D. The criminal history record shall be used for investigative purposes only and shall give rise to no presumption or inference or guilt. Due to the inclusion of criminal history records, the application shall be regarded as confidential and shall not be produces for public inspection without a court order.

Sec. 10-37. Disqualification and denial of permit

A. No permit shall be issued to applicant who provides any false or misleading information in connection with the application required by this article.

B. No permit or identification badge shall be issued to any applicant for canvassing or solicitation under the age of eighteen (18) or who shall have been convicted, pled guilty or entered a plea of *nolo contendere* for any federal, state or local law of any crime involving moral turpitude, or has a pending charge involving the elements of assault and battery, or any civil judgment involving unethical or improper business actions, including, but not limited to, actions which would constitute fraud and deceit under Georgia law. Illegal gambling, any felony, criminal trespass, public indecency, any misdemeanor involving any type of sexual related crime, any theft or violence against a person or property, any crime of possession or sale or distribution of illegal drugs, distribution of material depicting nudity or sexual conduct, as defined under state law criminal solicitation to commit any of these listed offenses or attempts to commit any of these listed offenses.

C. If, as a result of the investigation authorized by this article, the applicant's character or business responsibility is found not to meet the requirements hereunder, the County Clerk shall confer with the County Administrator, who shall endorse upon on such application his or her disapproval and the reasons for such denial, and shall notify the

applicant that the application is denied.

Sec. 10-38. Approval and issuance of permit

A. If, as a result of the investigation authorized by this article, the application's character and business responsibility are found to be satisfactory, the County clerk shall endorse upon such application her approval.
B. A solicitor's permit shall contain the name, address, physical description and organizational affiliation of the permit; a description of the solicitation activity to be engaged in; and an expiration date.
C. A solicitor's permit will be issued not less than ten (10) days after initial application is made for a permit, in order to give time for processing, investigation and ID badge preparation.

Sec. 10-39. Exemption from obtaining permit.

A. Persons, businesses and organizations exempted from local regulation by operation of state and federal law or by the Constitution of the United States or the Georgia Constitution are exempt from the requirements of this article;
B. *Bona fide* charitable organizations tax exempt under Section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code are exempt from the requirements of this article unless so noted elsewhere;
C. *Bona fide* charitable or nonprofit organizations whose field sales representatives are under the age of eighteen (18) years are not required to obtain a solicitor's permit;
D. Solicitors for nonprofit organizations who are regularly enrolled in a public or private school within Whitfield County shall not be required to obtain identification badges or a solicitor's permit.
E. Persons engaging in political canvassing shall not be requested to obtain a solicitor's permit.

Sec. 10-40. Regulations for Canvassers, Solicitors and Peddlers.

A. Solicitors may make only one (1) solicitation call at the same location/address for each individual business within any consecutive six (6) month period, unless specifically invited back.
B. Solicitors must inform the homeowner/resident immediately in the English language the purpose for the solicitation.
C. Solicitors may not use vulgar, insulting or threatening language during the course of any solicitation.
D. Solicitors may not remain upon any part of the property after the occupant has verbally indicated for the solicitor to leave or has refused to make a purchase.
E. Solicitors may not assign or transfer their permit to another person or business, or use the permit of another solicitor.
F. Door-to-door solicitation in residential communities or neighborhoods may occur only during the hours of 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. No solicitation shall be permitted on Sundays or holidays.
G. Solicitors may not solicit anyone under the age of eighteen (18) or request entrance into a private residence from anyone under the age of eighteen (18.)
H. Solicitors may not enter a private residence unless specifically invited by the homeowner/resident, who is at least eighteen (18) years of age.
I. Solicitors shall respect all "No Solicitation" signs
J. Solicitors may shall not attach any information to the mailbox, or to the entrance door or residence porch, porch columns, railings or wall of any residence
K. Solicitors shall not engage in any aggressive or intimidating sales or solicitation practices.
L. If a complaint is registered against a solicitor in a residential area of Whitfield County, all permits for the group or business may be revoked by the Whitfield County Administrator after investigation of such complaint, notices, and an opportunity to be heard.

Sec. 10-41. Due process

Any person, firm, corporation, association or partnership who believes he/she has been denied due process of law under this article shall be entitled to a hearing upon written appeal to the Board of Commissioners, which appeal shall allege denial of due process. Unless such hearing is requested within five (5) working days after the alleged denial of due process, such person shall be presumed to have accepted summary process.

Sec. 10-42. Violations and enforcement

A. Any person, firm, corporation, association or partnership violating any of the above regulations may have its solicitor's permit revoked by the Whitfield County Administrator upon investigation of the alleged violation after notice and an opportunity to be heard.

B. Persons canvassing, soliciting or peddling without a permit or in violation of the permit may be issued a citation punishable pursuant to O.C.G.A § 36-1-20(b).

Please sign and date below acknowledging that you understand your responsibilities to Whitfield County as a solicitor permit holder and will adhere to the provisions pursuant to Chapter 10, Article III Door-to-Door Solicitors Ordinance.

Contact for Solicitor Permits
Whitfield County, County Clerk
706-275-7500
bcardona@whitfieldcountyga.com

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Phone: _____

Business Name: _____ Applicant Name: _____

Please make a copy for your records*