

BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTION REGULATIONS

The House-to-House Collections Act, 1939 and the Regulations made there under (the House-to-House Collections Regulations, 1947 as amended) contain important provisions for the regulation of House-to-House collections for charitable purposes, and prescribe fines and/or imprisonment for offences against the Act or the Regulations.

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1. Except in the case specified in Paragraph 3, no collection in the District of Blaby for a charitable purpose may be made unless the promoter is licensed by the Blaby District Council and the collectors are authorised by the promoter.
 2. Application for a licence must be made in the prescribed manner and not later than the first day of the month preceding that in which the collection is proposed to be held. The Council cannot grant a licence for a period longer than twelve months and may refuse a licence, or where granted, may revoke it, in circumstances specified in the Act.

There is a right of appeal to the Secretary of State against the refusal or the revocation of a licence, within fourteen days from the date on which notice is given of the refusal or the revocation.

3. Where the Secretary of State is satisfied that a person pursues a charitable purpose throughout the whole, or a substantial part, of England and Wales, and is desirous of promoting collections for that purpose, the Secretary of State may by Order direct, in effect, that such person shall be exempt from the requirement to obtain a licence as respects all collections for that purpose in such localities as may be described in the Order.
4. Regulations have been made by the Secretary of State under the Act. The Regulations include the following, amongst other provisions:-
 - (a) Every promoter of a collection must exercise all due diligence to secure that persons authorised to act as collectors are fit and proper persons; and to secure compliance by collectors with the Regulations.
 - (b) No promoter of a collection shall permit any person to act as a collector unless he has issued to that person -
 - (i) a prescribed Certificate of Authority; (ii) a prescribed Badge; and (iii) if money is to be collected, a Collecting Box marked, or a Receipt Book (with receipts and counterfoils or duplicates consecutively numbered) marked on every receipt, with a general indication of the purpose of the collection, and a distinguishing number.
 - (c) In the case of a collection in respect of which a Licence has been granted, every prescribed Certificate of Authority shall be given on a form obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, and every prescribed Badge shall be so obtained.

- (d) No person under the age of 16 years, shall act or be authorised to act as a collector of money.
- (e) No collector shall importune any person to the annoyance of such person, or remain in, or at the door of, any house if requested to leave by any occupant thereof.
- (f) The promoter of a collection must furnish an account of the collection in the form prescribed to the Council or the Secretary of State, as the case may be within one month of the expiry of the licence.

DEFINITIONS

5. "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, to give, whether for consideration or not, money or other property; and "Collector" means a person who makes the appeal in the course of such visits.

"The Council" means Blaby District Council.

"House" includes a place of business.

"Proceeds" means, in relation to a collection, all money and all other property given, whether for consideration or not in response to the appeal.

"Promoter" means a person who causes others to act as collectors for the purposes of the collection.

If a "property" collection is being organised involving the use of polythene bags, the advice given by the Packaging Film Manufacturer's Association is that such bags should be of at least 150 gauge (1.5 thousandths of an inch thick), in order to reduce the risk of suffocation by the bags. Bags of this gauge are judged to be reasonably safe, although the risk of suffocation can also be reduced by using bags perforated with holes.