



Don't be a Phone Robbery Victim!

Tips to Avoid Telemarketing Fraud

1. **If it sounds too good to be true - It is!**

There is no such thing as a “no-risk investment.” Don't believe promises or ‘guarantees’ of high returns with little or no risk. If such a fabulous opportunity existed, why would a stranger be offering it to you?

2. **Know who you're dealing with.**

If the company or charity is unfamiliar, check it out with your state or local consumer protection agency, Better Business Bureau or check www.give.org for a report. Any legitimate company or charity will be willing to wait for your business or donation, while you check them out.

3. **Beware of Contests.**

Entering contests is fun, but be very careful of dealing with companies unknown to you, or those that need personal information for entry. Fraudulent telemarketers sometimes use contest entry forms to identify potential victims. Keep track of any contests that you do enter – if you “win” you will know if you actually entered. Also, NEVER pay a fee to receive a prize!

4. **Guard your personal Information!**

Only give out your credit card or bank account number when you are actually purchasing something, and only purchase from familiar companies. It is always best if you initiate the call – then you can be sure who you are doing business with. NEVER give your social security number to a telemarketer!

5. **Know your rights.**

Under federal law, you can tell telemarketers to put you on their “Do Not Call” lists, and sue them in small claims court for \$500.00 if they call again. Write down the name and address of the company, along with the date of the call, to document your request. If the company calls again, write down that date.

6. **Report violations.**

If your “Do Not Call” rights are violated, contact the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), 1-877-382-4357 or www.ftc.gov, and to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), 1-888-225-5322 or www.fcc.gov.

7. **Feel Free to Hang Up the Phone.**

If a telemarketer won't take “No” for an answer, tries to pressure you, or if you feel at all uncomfortable with the conversation – Hang-Up.
It is your home, your phone & your decision.

The Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS) is primarily fee-funded, requiring minimal public tax dollars for its regulatory and consumer assistance activities. OFIS has securities, insurance and financial institutions information available online at the OFIS web site, www.Michigan.gov/ofis.

FIS-PUB 0559 (8/04)



Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth

The Department of Labor & Economic Growth will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you may make your needs known to this agency.

Visit OFIS online at: www.michigan.gov/ofis Phone OFIS toll-free at: 1-877-999-6442