

NEWS RELEASE

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ATTORNEY GENERAL WARNS ABOUT DOOR-TO-DOOR MAGAZINE SALES

BISMARCK – Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem is warning residents about door-to-door magazine sales crews swarming Bismarck and other cities across the state. The Attorney General’s Consumer Protection Division is investigating several entities for compliance or licensing problems resulting in possible violations of North Dakota’s Transient Merchants Law.

“These door-to-door sales operations frequently use misleading and high-pressure sales tactics, often youth claiming they are selling the magazines to earn college scholarships or tuition, or raising money for a class trip,” Stenehjem said.

Stenehjem offers the following tips when a magazine sales crew appears on your doorstep:

- Ask to see a copy of the Attorney General’s Transient Merchant’s License
- Ask to see a copy of any local permits required by the City
- Don’t fall for high-pressure sales tactics
- Don’t assume they represent a local school or youth group
- Ask for the name of the organization and other details
- Ask for the cancellation policy and details

According to Parrell Grossman, Director of the Consumer Protection Division, consumers must be advised of their 3-day cancellation rights (15 days for consumer age 65 years or more) both orally and in writing, or such contracts may be voided. “However, cancellation of agreements and consumer refunds often are very difficult when dealing with fly-by-night magazine sales crews and questionable entities that may be fronting the sales crews,” Grossman said.

Consumers may contact the Consumer Protection Division toll-free at 1-800-472-2600 with any questions or may report any suspicious activities to local law enforcement.

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