

**House to House Collections Act 1939**  
**House to House Collections Regulations 1947 (as amended)**

The above Act and the Regulations made there under contain important provisions for the regulation of House to House collections for charitable purposes, and prescribe fine and / or imprisonment for offences against the act or the regulations.

1. Except in the cases specified in paragraphs 3 and 4:

No collection in any locality for a charitable purpose may be made unless the promoter is licensed by the Licensing Authority for the area comprising that locality, and the collectors are authorised by the promoter.

2. Application for a licence must be made in the prescribed manner. The Licensing Authority 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 Minister for the Cabinet Office 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 Minister for the Cabinet Office 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 Minister for the Cabinet Office may by order direct, in effect, that such person shall be exempt from the requirement to obtain licences from the Licensing Authority, as respects all collections for that purpose in such localities as may be described in the order.

4. If the chief constable for the Police Area comprising a locality in which a collection for a charitable purpose is being, or proposed to be made is satisfied that the purpose is local in character, and that the collection is likely to be completed within a short period, he may grant to the person who appears to him to be principally concerned in the promotion of the collection a certificate in the prescribed form; and where a certificate is so granted, a licence from the Licensing Authority is not required, and the provisions of the Regulations (as to which see paragraph 5 below) shall not apply to a collection made in conformity with such Certificate.

5. Regulations have been made by the Secretary of State (any future regulations would be made by the Minister for the Cabinet Office) 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/she 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 HM 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, within one month of the expiry of the licence, furnish an account of the collection in the form prescribed to the Licensing Authority or the secretary of state, as the case may be.

#### 6. Definitions

“**Charitable Purpose**” means any charitable, benevolent, or philanthropic purpose.

“**Collection**” means as 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.

“**House**” includes a place of business.

“**Proceeds**” means, in relation to a collection, all money & all other property given, whether for consideration or not, in response to the appeal.

“**Promoter**” means, in relation to a collection, a person who causes others to act, whether for remuneration or otherwise, as collectors for the purposes of the collection; and “**promote**” and “**promotion**” have corresponding meanings.

#### Further Information

7. For further information, reference should be made to the Act and Regulations which are obtainable from HM Stationery Office, P.O. Box 276, London, SW8 5DT, or through any bookseller.

8. Enquiries in connection with these matters may also be addressed to:

Licensing Unit,  
Guildford Borough Council,  
Millmead House,  
Millmead,  
Guildford,  
Surrey,  
GU2 4BB  
Tel: 01483 444371  
Email: [licensing@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@guildford.gov.uk)