



**HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTIONS
ACT 1939**

**HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTIONS
REGULATIONS 1947
(as amended)**

The above Act and the Regulations made thereunder contain important provisions for THE REGULATION OF HOUSE-TO-HOUSE COLLECTIONS FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES, and prescribes FINES AND/OR IMPRISONMENT for offences against the Act or the Regulations.

1. In these Regulations unless the context otherwise requires.

“The Act” means the House-to-House Collections Act 1939;

“Charitable Purposes” 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.

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

“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.

“Order” means an order made by the Secretary of State under Section 3 of the Act

“Licence” means a licence granted by the Licensing Authority under Section 2 of the Act.

“Collecting Box” means a box or other receptacle for monetary contributions, securely closed and sealed in such a way that it cannot be opened without breaking the seal.

2. Except in the cases specified in paragraph 6 and 7:

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.

3. Application for a licence shall be made in writing not later than one month before the date on which it is proposed to make the collection:

Provided that the Licensing Authority may reduce the period of one month if satisfied that there are special reasons for so doing.

4. The Licensing Authority cannot grant a licence for a period longer than twelve months.

5. The Licensing Authority 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.
6. 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 licences from the Licensing Authority, as respects all collections for that purpose in such localities as may be described in the Order.
7. If the Chief Officer of Police for the 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 8 below), shall not apply to a collection made in conformity with such Certificate.
8. 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 the occupant thereof.

9. Every collector, to whom a collecting box or receipt book has been issued, shall -

- (a) when the collecting box is full or the receipt book is exhausted, or
- (b) upon the demand of a promoter of the collection, or
- (c) when he does not desire to act as a collector, or
- (d) upon the completion of the collection

return to a promoter of the collection that collecting box with the seal unbroken or that receipt book with a sum equal to the total amount of the contributions (if any) entered therein.

10. The chief promoter of a collection shall exercise all due diligence to secure that all forms of prescribed certificates of authority and prescribed badges obtained by him for the purposes of the collection are destroyed when no longer required in connection with that collection or in connection with a further collection which he has been authorised to promote for the same purpose.

11. The promoter of a collection shall furnish an account of the collection in the form prescribed by the Licensing Authority within one month of the expiry of the licence.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, reference should be made to the Act and Regulations, which are obtainable from H.M. Stationery Office, or through any bookseller.