

Telemarketing Solicitor Registration Frequently Asked Questions

For 2023-2024, telemarketers are still required to register with the Public Service Commission ("PSC") **before** July 1, 2023 under the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act, Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-701 *et seq.*, and to register annually with the Mississippi Attorney General ("AGO") under the Unsolicited Telephonic Sales Call Act, Miss. Code Ann. § 77-3-601 *et seq.*

What is changing?

On July 1, 2023, Mississippi House Bill 1225 goes into effect to transfer the state's telephone solicitation administrative, investigative, and enforcement authority fully from the PSC to the AGO.

• After July 1, 2023, do I still have to complete two registrations and pay two bonds for the PSC and AGO?

As of July 1, 2023, solicitors will only be required to complete one registration process with the State of Mississippi and provide one bond, all through the AGO.

After July 1, 2023, only the \$75,000 bond to the AGO will be necessary. The prior \$50,000 to the PSC will no longer be necessary.

• How do I register as a solicitor?

Go to https://nocallportal.ago.ms.gov/portal to complete the forms and upload documents.

• How often must I register?

Registration is still an annual process. Please register May - June of each year.

• Who should I contact if I have any trouble with portal or any questions regarding the annual registration process?

Contact Kimberly Warren with the AGO Consumer Protection Division at <u>Kimberly.Warren@ago.ms.gov</u> or 601-359-4235.

Will the Mississippi Do Not Call List cease to exist?

As of July 1, 2023, Mississippi will use the federal do not call list registration at www.donotcall.gov as a list of Mississippi consumers who have objected to receiving

telephone solicitations for the purpose of enforcing the Mississippi Telephone Solicitation Act.

Miss. Code Ann. Section 77-3-705 (j) now states: "Do Not Call Registry" means the registry created and maintained by the Federal Trade Commission pursuant to the Telemarketing Sales Rule or any other telemarketing registry created by the federal government, or the prior registry created by the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

Therefore, all telemarketing solicitors making calls to Mississippians must obtain a copy of the federal do not call list monthly and confirm with the AGO in their registration process that they have obtained it.

Solicitors will no longer be required to obtain a separate Mississippi Do Not Call List from the State of Mississippi and will not have to pay the prior \$1,000 fee to the state for such.

Numbers that were included on the PSC's Mississippi Do Not Call List as of July 1, 2023, will remain in the state's database, and calls made to those numbers will continue to be a violation without proper opt in.

- How should I affirm receipt of the federal no call list?
 Upload a copy of the entity's Federal Trade Commission confirmation that shows:
 Organization's Legal Name, ID #, National DNC Registry Subscription Account Number (SAN #,) and SAN expiration date.
- Is a service of process agent still required as part of the registration? Yes.
- May companies contract with vendors to complete their telemarketing registration process?

Yes; however, this does not delegate or remove each solicitor's obligation to follow the law.

• Are charities required to comply with this solicitor registration process? No. However, this does not change or otherwise impact other state law and requirements concerning charities.