



INDIANA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Youth Peddling

When is selling legal?

It is legal when minors under 16 are selling goods or services as a fundraiser for a school, government agency, or charity and not receiving compensation for their fundraising efforts are legal. This includes children selling door to door or in front of a market if it is for a not-for-profit organization and follows the rules of the property owners and/or managers. This also includes minors working for an employer in the employer's place of business (e.g. selling goods in a retail store).

When is selling illegal?

It is illegal when minors under 16 years of age are selling goods or services for a non-charitable organization or a fake organization, soliciting door-to-door or approaching passersby that is not in accordance with the property and locality rules, and not receiving compensation for selling goods.

Is selling dangerous? According to the U.S. Department of Labor, "Injuries, and even deaths, have occurred as the result of young children engaging in youth peddling activities." These include "indentured servitude, physical and sexual abuse, and criminal activity."

What are the warning signs that a child is selling illegally?

If the minor:

- Cannot provide the name of the organization
- Cannot provide an address of the organizations office
- Cannot provide contact information for the organization
- Is paid to sell the goods
- Cannot provide an "ID card" or a flyer
- Does not know what town they are in
- Is not from the neighborhood or town

What can parents look out for to make sure their children are not being used as child peddlers?

Parents are advised to:

- Ask questions, such as "will my child get paid for selling?"
- Learn as much as you can about the organization
- Watch for signs such as a program promising that your children will become "young entrepreneurs" or business leaders or will be doing a service for their community
- Be leery of any organization asking you to provide low-income housing information, WIC vouchers or other proof of government assistance or income
- Question any program that asks for money up front for your child to work
- Talk to your children about their job
- Know the legal limits of child labor laws

What should a person do if they suspect that a child is selling illegally?

If the minor is not in imminent danger, the person should contact the Indiana Bureau of Child Labor by phone at (317) 232-2655 option 2 or by email at childlabor@dol.in.gov.

However, if the minor is in imminent danger (e.g. standing in a roadway, being harassed, or threatened, approaching "customers" in their vehicles, etc.), please call 911.

What details should a person try to collect?

When reporting, the Indiana Department of Labor would like to know as much information about the minors and their "rides" as we can get. Specifically, business contact information and any identifying information about the vehicle and driver that transport the minors such as the make, model, color and license plate number of the vehicle and the description of the driver.