

Soliciting & Trespassing FAQ

To help owners understand how soliciting is handled in Waterbridge, the following guidance is provided by Horry County Police. Soliciting includes door-to-door sales, service sales, and leaving flyers or door hangers.

Soliciting and trespass are non-emergency matters—do **not** call 911. Instead, contact Horry County Police at **843-248-1520**. Response times may range from 20 minutes to 2 hours.

Because enforcement can be difficult, especially when gates are open and identification or confirmation is required, police recommend the simplest approach: ignore solicitors, do not answer the door or engage, and discard any materials. This typically discourages further solicitation.

Community Rules

- The community may post **No Soliciting** and/or **No Trespassing** signs outside the gate.
- Rules are enforced differently depending on whether the gates are **open or closed**.

If the Gates Are CLOSED

- Soliciting anywhere in the community is **not allowed**. It may be considered **trespassing**.
- If police locate and identify the solicitor, a **Board member** may file a trespass if the solicitor is on a common area, or street.
- Homeowners may report the incident to the police as well, evidence is required (camera footage of the person on your property or a door hanger linked to the solicitor).

If the Gates Are OPEN

- Soliciting is **not automatically illegal** because access is open to the public, creating a legal grey area.
- The solicitor **must first be told** they are not allowed to solicit in the neighborhood. A **Board member, community manager, or security** may inform the solicitor and ask them to leave.
- If the solicitor **does not leave**, police may be called.
- The solicitor **must be identified by police while still in the neighborhood** for a trespass.
- Only a **Board member** may file a trespass on behalf of the entire community, police must have confirmation the solicitor was asked to leave for the trespass.

What Homeowners Can Do

- **When gates are closed:** You may report soliciting directly to the police as a trespass with proper evidence, camera footage or the sales materials left behind.
- **When gates are open:**
 - You must personally tell the solicitor they are not welcome and ask them to leave.
 - Police must identify the solicitor **before they leave the neighborhood**.
 - Evidence and confirmation that you asked them to leave are required.

What About Door Hangers?

- Door hangers are a legal **gray area**.
- If a door hanger is left while gates are closed and the solicitor is **no longer present**, no action can be taken.
- If a door hanger is left while gates are open and the solicitor **was not informed**, no action can be taken.
- A trespass requires the solicitor to be **actively soliciting and identified by police**.