



# **TOWN OF RUTLAND PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS AND TRANSIENT MERCHANTS ORDINANCE**

**Version Date: September 2022**

Town of Rutland Municipal Town Hall  
181 Business Route 4  
Center Rutland, VT 05736

802-773-2528

# **HISTORY OF THE PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS AND TRANSIENT MERCHANTS REGULATIONS**

**AMENDED**  
September 13, 2022

**EFFECTIVE**  
November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**ADOPTED**

**EFFECTIVE**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1. Authority .....	1
Section 2. License Required .....	1
Section 3. Definitions .....	1
Section 4. Exceptions .....	2
Section 5. License Application .....	3
Section 6. Display of License .....	4
Section 7. No Assignment or Transfer of License .....	4
Section 8. Loud Noises and Amplifying Devices .....	4
Section 9. Use of Public Highway Prohibited .....	4
Section 10. Municipal Records .....	5
Section 11. No Solicitation List .....	5
Section 12. Enforcement, Violations and Penalties .....	5
Section 13. Severability .....	6
Section 14. Adoption and Effective Date .....	7



1   **Section 1. Authority**

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3       Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 2291(9) the following ordinance is promulgated in order  
4       to regulate the licensing of peddlers, solicitors, and transient merchants' conduction  
5       business in the Town of Rutland. This Ordinance is designated as a civil ordinance  
6       pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1971(b).  
7

8   **Section 2. License Required**

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10       Unless exempted from this Ordinance by Section 04, it shall be unlawful for any  
11       person to engage in the business of peddler, solicitor, or transient merchant as  
12       defined in Section 03 of this Ordinance within the corporate limits of the Town of  
13       Rutland without first obtaining a license therefore as provided herein.  
14

15   **Section 3. Definitions**

16  
17       **Peddler** - Any person, whether a resident of the Town of Rutland or not, traveling 18  
18       by foot, wagon, automotive vehicle, or any other type of conveyance, from place to  
19       place, from house to house, or from street to street, carrying, conveying or  
20       transporting goods, wares, merchandise, meats, fish, vegetables, fruits, garden  
21       truck, farm products or provisions or popcorn, ice cream, sodas, or other  
22       refreshments of like character, offering and exposing the same for sale, or making  
23       sales and delivering articles to purchases or who without traveling from place to  
24       place, shall sell or offer the same for sale from a wagon, automotive vehicle, railroad  
25       car, or other vehicle or conveyance, and further provided that one who solicits orders  
26       and as a separate transaction makes deliveries to purchases as part of a scheme or  
27       design to evade the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed a peddler subject to  
28       provisions of this chapter.  
29

30       **Person** - Includes the singular and the plural and shall also mean and include any  
31       person, firm, or corporation, association, club, co-partnership or society, or any other  
32       organization.  
33

34       **Solicitor** - Any person, whether a resident of the Town of Rutland or not, traveling  
35       either by foot, wagon, automobile, motor truck or any other type of conveyance, from  
36       place to place, from house to house, or from street to street,

37 taking or attempting to take orders for sale of goods, wares and merchandise,  
38 personal property of any nature whatsoever for future delivery, or for services  
39 to be furnished or performed in the future whether or not such individual has,  
40 carries or exposes for sale a sample of the subject of such sale or whether they  
41 are collecting advance payments on such sales or not, provided that such  
42 definition shall include any person who, for themselves, or for another person,  
43 firm or corporation, hires, leases, uses or occupies any building, structure, tent,  
44 railroad box car, hotel room, lodging house, apartment, shop or any other place  
45 within the Town for the sole purpose of exhibiting samples and taking orders  
46 for future delivery.

47  
48 **Transient merchant** - Any person, whether as owner, agent, consignee or  
49 employee, whether a resident of the Town or not, who engages in a temporary  
50 business of selling (and delivering) goods, wares, and merchandise within the  
51 Town, and who, in furtherance of such purpose, hires, leases, uses or occupies  
52 any building, garage, structure, motor vehicle, tent, railroad box car, public  
53 room in hotels, lodging houses, motel, apartments, shops, or any street,  
54 driveway, alley, or other place within the Town, for the exhibition and sale of  
55 such goods, wares and merchandise, either privately or at public auction  
56 provided that such definition shall not be construed to include any person who,  
57 while occupying such temporary locations, does not sell stock, but exhibits  
58 samples only for the purpose of securing orders for future delivery only. The  
59 person so engaged shall not be relived from complying with the provisions of  
60 this chapter merely by reason of association temporarily with any local dealer,  
61 trader, merchant, auctioneer or by conducting such transient business in  
62 connection with, as a part of, or in the name of any local dealer, trader,  
63 merchant, or auctioneer.

#### 64 65 **Section 4. Exceptions**

66  
67 The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to one who sells or offers for sale in  
68 person or by their employees or agents, newspaper, ice, bread, pastry, wood, milk,  
69 fruits, vegetables, or other farm produce.

70  
71 The provision of this chapter shall not apply to sales made to manufacturers,  
72 merchants, and dealers for resale only.

## **Section 5. License Application**

An application for licenses under this Ordinance, shall set forth the name, permanent and local address, business address and physical description of all persons to be covered by the license; description of any vehicles to be used in the licensed activity, including registration number, the nature of the business to be conducted; the last place of such business, and the period of time requested to be covered by the license.

The applicant shall identify every federal, state, or local administrative or regulatory enforcement action or license violation asserted against the applicant or the applicant's employer concerning commerce, the conducting of business, or the sale of services, goods, wares, merchandise, personal property or any other thing regulated by this Ordinance and, if no longer pending, the outcome or resolution thereof.

The applicant shall identify any and all misdemeanor and felony criminal convictions concerning the applicant. For each such conviction, the applicant shall identify the offense for which the applicant was convicted, the date of conviction, and the court and state that issued the conviction.

The applicant shall state whether they seek a permit to conduct business door to door or from a particular location. An applicant that proposes to conduct business from a particular location must provide with the application written permission from the owner of the property for the location proposed. Any such permit shall be limited to the particular location identified.

The Selectboard or its designee shall issue or deny a license application. No license shall be issued where the applicant or the business that the applicant seeks to conduct would endanger the health, safety, or welfare of the public. Evidence of danger to the public health, safety or welfare may include, but shall not be limited to, misdemeanor or felony conviction(s); evidence of fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation; consumer complaints; or evidence of violations or enforcement concerning other licensing or consumer protection authorities.

The fee schedule shall be:

One Day	\$20
One Month	\$30
Six Month	\$50
1 Year	\$100

In the exercise of its discretion, the Selectboard of the Town of Rutland may modify the duration of permits and a schedule of fees for permits issued pursuant to this Ordinance by request of the applicant made in writing.

#### **Section 6. Display of License**

Each solicitor, peddler and transient merchant shall at all times while doing business in the Town of Rutland keep in their possession the license provided for in this Ordinance and shall, upon the request of prospective customers, Town Constable or other Town official, exhibit the license as evidence they have complied with all requirements thereof. Each transient merchant shall publicly display their license in their place of business.

#### **Section 7. No Assignment or Transfer of License**

A license issued pursuant to this Ordinance shall not be used at any time by any person other than the person identified on the license. A license issued pursuant to this Ordinance shall not be transferred or assigned.

#### **Section 8. Loud Noises and Amplifying Devices**

No peddler, solicitor, or transient merchant, nor any person on their behalf, shall shout, make any cry out, blow a horn, ring a bell, or use any sound device, including any loud speaking radio or sound amplifying system upon any street, alleys, parks or other public places of the Town or upon any private premises in the Town for the purpose of attracting attention to any foods, wares or merchandise which such licensee proposes to sell.



141 **Section 9. Use of Town Highway to Sell or Conduct Business**  
142 **Prohibited**

143  
144 A peddler, solicitor, or transient merchant shall not sell or conduct business from  
145 any location in town highway, including a town highway right of way. A peddler,  
146 solicitor, or transient merchant shall not conduct business from a metered parking  
147 space. A peddler, solicitor or transient merchant shall not conduct business  
148 operate in any congested area where their operations might impede or  
149 inconvenience the public without the approval of the Select Board of the Town of  
150 Rutland.

151  
152 **Section 10. Municipal Records**

153  
154 The Constable(s) of the Town of Rutland shall inform the Town Administrator of  
155 every municipal ticket issued for a violation of this Ordinance. The Town  
156 Administrator shall maintain a record for each license and a record of all the  
157 reports of violation of this Ordinance.

158  
159 **Section 11. No Solicitation List**

160  
161 Any resident, tenant, or property owner located that desires not to receive  
162 solicitation or other contact at their property from persons subject to this  
163 Ordinance may so inform the Town Administrator.

164  
165 The Town Administrator shall keep a list of the properties and/or addresses of the  
166 properties in the Town for which the Town has received such notice (the  
167 nosolicitation list”).

168  
169 The Town Administrator shall provide a copy of the no solicitation list to the holder  
170 of permit that authorizes door-to-door solicitation.

171  
172 It shall constitute a violation of this Ordinance for a permit holder to solicit or  
173 conduct business covered by this Ordinance, otherwise attempt to conduct  
174 business covered by this Ordinance at a property identified on the no-solicitation  
175 list.

## Section 12. Enforcement, Violations, and Penalties

A civil penalty of not more than \$500 may be imposed for a violation of this Ordinance. Each week that the violation continues shall constitute a separate violation of this Ordinance.

An issuing municipal official is authorized to recover by the issuance of a municipal complaint, civil penalties in the following amounts for each violation of this Ordinance:

First Violation	\$50
Second Violation	\$100
Third Violation	\$300
Fourth and Subsequent Violations	\$500

In lieu of the civil penalties provided above, an issuing municipal official is authorized to recover a waiver fee in the following amount, from any person to whom a municipal complaint is issued, who declines to contest the municipal traffic complaint and pays the waiver fee:

First Violation	\$25
Second Violation	\$50
Third Violation	\$150
Fourth and Subsequent Violations	\$250

**Other Relief** - In addition to the enforcement procedures available before the Traffic and Municipal Ordinance Bureau, the Town of Rutland may pursue any remedy authorized by law, including without limitation, the maintenance of a civil action in superior court pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 1974a(b) to obtain injunctive and other appropriate relief.

## Section 13. Severability

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any provision of this Ordinance, or its application to any person or circumstances or within any part of the Town of Rutland is held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable by a court of competent

jurisdiction, the invalidity shall not apply to any other portion of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application thereof.

**Section 14. Adoption and Effective Date**

This Ordinance is hereby adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Rutland on this the 13th day of September 2022, and shall, unless a petition is filed as provided by law, become effective upon sixty (60) days from this date.

Town of Rutland Selectboard

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Don Chioffi, Chairman

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Joseph Denardo, Clerk

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Mary Ashcroft

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Sharon Russell

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Kurt Hathaway