

Subject Category: Trade Regulation Rule on Telemarketing Sales

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Dear FTC,

My comments on the above referenced rule change are as follows.

Telemarketers are trespassers who interfere with families' right to privacy and to the conduct of their lives. The benefit of the "do-not-call" list is to enable families to limit the access to their homes to those who are invited. Automated telemarketing will only exacerbate the invasion of citizens homes by enabling telemarketing concerns to increase their volume of calls while decreasing their costs.

Pre-existing business relationships do not assume a current desire to be bothered by a telemarketer, thus, the burden is on the telemarketer to show that he has an open invitation to a family's home.

Limiting telemarketers' access to the public will decrease the number of telephone subscribers who opt to place their numbers on the telephone companies' "non-publish" list, thus enabling legitimate callers to find the subscribers' in the published directories.

1. Telephone lines placed on the "do not call" registry should be off limits 24 hours per day and 7 days per week by any and all technologies.
2. Telemarketers rob me and my family of our privacy and our time, especially my wife who, as a night nurse, sleeps during the day. She is continuously awakened by telemarketers, robbing her of her much needed rest.
3. Besides invading my home and stealing my time, telemarketers are using my personal property—my phone—for their business use without my consent and without compensating me in any way. This is tantamount to a neighboring moving company driving their trucks through my back yard to access their warehouse. Such activities are trespassing and should be illegal.
4. Any exceptions to the above limits would be by a verifiable permission granted to an individual company or organization by a subscriber. Such a permission would also include the weekday and time window that calls are permitted. Companies or organizations—**including those with pre-existing relationships, political parties, and charitable organizations**—could solicit permission to call, however, such solicitations could only be made by mail, and the companies or organizations would be required to maintain their list for verification and for removal by a subscriber, his spouse, or adult children. Removal from exception would not need an authorized signature.

Please do not allow telemarketers to trespass into the homes of American citizens with impunity.

Ivan Engle