



# *Garland Police News Release*

Public Information Office - 972-485-4868

1891 Forest Lane, Garland, Texas 75042

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## **Fraud Alert - Solicitation Requirements**

The Garland Police Department is working closely with the Texas Department of Insurance and the National Insurance Crime Bureau in order to protect the residents of Garland from unscrupulous individuals who prey upon disaster victims.

When disaster strikes an area, some contractors may attempt to pressure homeowners into letting them repair damages and may try to take advantage of unsuspecting victims.

In order to safeguard residents, the City of Garland requires that anyone soliciting for the purpose of selling or offering to sell goods or services, retain a solicitation permit through the Garland Police Department.

To verify that a permit is valid, contact the Garland Police Department at 972-205-1658 or in person at 1891 Forest Lane, Garland TX, 75042.

Here are a few things to consider before you hire a contractor:

- Get more than one estimate
- Get everything in writing: work to be done, guarantees, and other expectations
- Demand references
- Ask to see the salesperson's driver's license
- Never sign a contract with blanks
- Never pay a contractor in full or sign a completion certificate until the work is completed

Be aware of unsolicited contractors pressuring you to sign a contract or pay in advance.

If you feel you've been a victim or need to report an incident contact the Garland Police Department.

If you suspect insurance fraud you can also call 1-800-TEL NICB.

For more information you can go to <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/> or <https://www.nicb.org/> .