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Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Stopping Unwanted Telemarketers

Nothing can disrupt a quiet dinner better than a badly timed phone call, but when that call is an unwanted telemarketer, it can truly be frustrating. This is why Missouri offers relief from unwanted telemarketing calls through the No Call list — a list of residential telephone numbers of Missourians who have indicated that they don't want to be called by telemarketers at home. There are currently more than 2.5 million Missouri phone lines registered on the No Call list.



Registering for the No Call list is easy and can dramatically decrease the number of unwanted calls your household receives. The service is free, and can be done at anytime online or by phone. A form for adding residential phone numbers is available at

www.nocall.ago.mo.gov or you can call 1-866-662-2551. You can also check online to see if your number is on the list at www.nocall.ago.mo.gov/no_call_registration_lookup. Telemarketers are prohibited from calling residences on the list, with a few exceptions. Telemarketers can face penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation for calling a registered number. The law applies to all telemarketing calls to Missouri residents, even if the call does not originate in our state. If you think a telemarketer has violated the law, then you can file a complaint online at https://www.nocall.ago.mo.gov/cgi-bin/nocall/nocall/complaint.cgi.

Missouri is serious about those who do violate the No Call list. Telemarketers have been ordered to pay more than \$3 million since 2001, when the list began. The state's legal staff has responded to the complaints of consumers, resulting in more than 1,000 enforcement actions. Court judgments against telemarketers have included phone companies,



satellite television operators, so-called psychics, mortgage brokers, and an online dating service.

Even if you're registered on the federal No Call list, the Missouri list can help to further limit any unwanted calls. This list exists so that when you pick up the phone, you can be confident the person on the other line is someone you want to talk to.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell.

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