

Transient Merchant & Door-to-Door Sales FAQ

1) What is a “transient merchant” and a transient merchant license?

Century Code- 51-04-01- Transient Merchant Definition

Criminal & Regulatory Division

ND Office of Attorney General:

Definition: Applies to any person or company doing temporary or transient work in the state of North Dakota if they do not have an account with Workforce Safety and Insurance, pay contributions to Job Service ND, and have a sales and use Tax ID number.

"Transient merchant" includes any person, individual, copartnership, corporation, or limited liability company, either as principal or agent, who engages in, does, or transacts any temporary or transient business in this state, either in one locality, or in traveling from place to place in this state, selling, or soliciting orders for future delivery of, goods, wares, merchandise, personal property, and personal services including spraying, trimming, or pruning of trees and shrubs of all species, painting or repairing buildings or structures, pest or rodent control, and taking photographs for present or future delivery, who does **not intend to become and does not become a permanent merchant of such place.**

The City of Williston’s Zoning Ordinance:

A person, firm, or corporation, whether as owner agent, consignee or employee, who temporarily sets up business on private property, or out of a vehicle, trailer, tent, other portable shelter, or vacant store front for the purpose of exposing or displaying for sale, selling or attempting to sell, goods, wares, products, or merchandise.

We also have definitions under chapter 18 that do not necessarily use the term “transient”, but it is our requirement for merchants, vendors, and solicitors.

City Ordinance No. 988

Ord. No. 988, 9-9-2014

Ord. No. 988, 9-9-2014 **Surety Bond**

2) How do I get a ND Transient Merchants License?

Transient merchant licenses are issued by the North Dakota Attorney General. Applications are available through the website <https://attorneygeneral.nd.gov>. A list of transient merchants licensed by the state is also available on the site. The Attorney General says that this can take two to three weeks to process.

3) Who needs a door-to-door solicitor permit?

Any person going door to door to sell a product or service in Williston needs to apply for a Door-to-Door Solicitor Permit. Persons who have attained this license have gone through the ND Transient Merchant process with the state and have provided payment, attained Surety bonds, and provided photo identification to the Finance Department. The Finance Department then shares that information with the Code Enforcement Department and the Williston Police Department.

Please note, that not all transient merchants need door-to-door but all door-to-door needs a transient merchant license.

As a customer, if a business solicits at your property, ask them to see their ND Transient Merchant License and their Door-to-Door Sales Permit. Contractors and vendors are to always carry them per person.