

Code of Conduct for Stairway to Heaven Charity Fundraisers

Code of Conduct for Stairway to Heaven Charity Volunteers

Volunteers Code of Conduct

This code of conduct covers collections of money or other property (including goods and regular gifts) for charitable institutions, whether carried out on the street, house-to-house or on private sites. This includes secure collection procedures and standards to make sure you respect local people and places.

The law on collecting money or other property varies according to the type and location of the collection. In most cases, for collections on public land you will need a licence or permission to collect from the relevant local authority (or in Northern Ireland, the Police Service of Northern Ireland). On private land, you will need permission from the person responsible for the site. The controls on public collections apply to collections for charitable purposes, and include collections for benevolent and philanthropic purposes.

1. Behaviour when collecting money or other property

1.1. While fundraising, you must not:

- act in any way that might reasonably cause members of the public to be or become startled or anxious;
- act dishonestly or manipulatively, or deliberately try to make a potential donor feel guilty; or
- act in any other way that a reasonable person might consider would damage the charitable institution's reputation. This includes:
 - smoking or drinking alcohol while wearing clothing that contains a charitable institution's branding;
 - taking or being under the influence of illegal drugs;
 - lewd or aggressive behaviour, including swearing, while wearing clothing that contains a charitable institution's branding;
 - putting undue pressure on members of the public to donate;
 - exploiting your position for personal gain (for example, asking for a job, asking someone for a date, or asking for a discount on goods or services); or
 - any other behaviour that harms the reputation of the fundraising profession or the charitable institution you are representing.

1.2. You must avoid causing an obstruction, congestion and nuisance to the public. You must not deliberately block the path of members of the public.

1.3. You must treat the locations you are working at or visiting with respect.

1.4. You must not suggest to any member of the public that the conversation you are attempting to start is not about money or that you are 'not fundraising'.

1.5. When asking for a regular gift, you must not suggest to any member of the public that it is 'without commitment'.

1.6. Unless this is authorised under an agreement with a private site, you must not approach members of the public who are:

- seated, unless the seating is part of a charitable institution's promotional stand; or
- in queues, unless the queue is directly related to the fundraising activity.

1.7. You must not knowingly approach people who are carrying out official duties, such as uniformed officials while they are on duty or people who are clearly working.

1.8. You must not obstruct, interfere with or disrespect members of staff from local businesses.

2. House-to-house collections

2.1. You must not harass any person or ignore a request to leave or not to return.

2.2. You must not cold-call in an area where a 'no cold-calling zone' has been created legitimately which means that charitable collections are not allowed.

2.3. You must not knock on the door of any property that displays a sticker or sign which includes the words 'no cold-calling', 'no cold-callers', 'no charities', 'no charity canvassers' or 'no charity fundraisers'.

2.4. You must only knock on the front door or main entrance of a property (usually the door that is closest to or most directly accessible from a street), unless a resident asks you to do otherwise.

2.5. If a building contains several properties and you need permission from a resident in order to access the building, you must not use entry permission given by one resident to then call on other properties in the building. You must get individual permission to enter the building from the resident of every property you visit in the building.

2.6. You must take extra care when visiting properties after dark. If you are visiting isolated places, you must consider whether the visit could cause anxiety to residents before approaching a property.

2.7. You must not enter a property unless you have the permission of a resident of the property (or, if the property is occupied by a business, the person in charge at the property on the day of the visit).

2.8. You must not stop residents from shutting a door of their property (for example, by putting your foot in the doorway).

2.9. You must not deliver charitycollection bags to a property that displays a sticker or sign which includes the words ‘no charity bags’, ‘no clothing bags’ or any other words which clearly show that the householder does not want to donate in this way.

2.10. Alongside any time restrictions for collections that are set out in the licence, you must not fundraise before 9am Monday to Saturday or before 10am on Sundays and public holidays, or after 9pm on any day or date. If you need to call again at a property (two-step collections) the second visit must not take place outside of these times, unless the person at the property asks you to make the collection at a certain time.

2.11. You must not approach a property in groups of more than two at a time. This includes trainee fundraisers.

2.12. If you are collecting regular gifts house-to-house (face-to-face fundraising), you must wear an ID badge, that:

- includes your identity as a fundraiser, who you work for and a phone number for the relevant charitable institution or third-party fundraiser;
- is clearly displayed and has not been tampered with;
- is in the form of a badge fixed to the upper front part of your body;
- is at least the size of a credit card;
- is signed or authorised in some other way (for example, with a company seal or stamp) by the agency you work for or the charity you are collecting on behalf of (or both); and
- is accessible for people with sight difficulties (for example, the information on the ID badge could be available in large print).

3. Collecting regular gifts (face-to-face fundraising) on the street

3.1. If you do not need a licence or permit, you must meet Chartered Institute of Fundraising (CioF) site management agreements that are in place with the local authority for regular gift (face-to-face) fundraising on the street.

3.2. You must be identifiable by the public from a distance of at least five metres. Charity branded clothing:

- must be visible and identifiable;
- must not be tied around your waist or covered by non-charity branded clothing or other property, or be in any way obscured; and
- must be clean and in good condition to make sure the brand can be seen and to protect its reputation.

3.3. You must wear an ID badge, that:

- includes your identity as a fundraiser, who you work for and a phone number for the relevant charitable institution or third-party fundraiser;
- is clearly displayed and has not been tampered with;
- is in the form of a badge fixed to the upper front part of your body;
- is at least the size of a credit card;
- is signed or authorised in some other way (for example, with a company seal or stamp) by the employing agency or the charity you are collecting on behalf of (or both); and
- is accessible for people with sight difficulties (for example, the information on the ID badge could be available in large print).

3.4. You must not leave bags unattended on any public road or right of way. A team member must always stay within three metres of the bags and be able to see a 'team bag' (if one is used).

3.5. You must not begin collecting before 9am Monday to Saturday or 10am on Sundays and public holidays, or continue after 7pm on any day. (If different times are stated in a CIOF site management agreement, you must keep to the times in the agreement.)

3.6. You must not position yourself within three metres of:

- a shop entrance;
- a pedestrian crossing;
- a cashpoint machine;
- a station entrance;
- a market stall; or
- a street trader, vendor or busker.

3.7. If you have approached a member of the public, you must meet the 'three-step' rule.

- You must not take more than three steps alongside the person or to follow them, even if they ask you to.
- If the member of the public has not come to a stop within the three steps allowed, you must end your attempt to talk to them.

4. Collections on private land and bookable private sites

4.1. You must have permission from the property owner or manager to collect and must keep to the dates, times and areas allowed for collecting.

4.2. You must record all bookings and include the full name of the person you made the booking with, the dates that were agreed and the type of activity that was agreed. You must keep these records for at least 28 days.

5. Collecting regular gifts (face-to-face fundraising) on bookable private sites

5.1. Whenever possible, before beginning work you must introduce yourself to the relevant member of staff responsible for the private site.

5.2. If the venue or location changes, you must tell the person responsible for your operations before beginning work.

5.3. You must not work outside the boundaries of the private site as explained by the site owner and, in any case, you must work within sight of the promotional stand, if there is one.

5.4. When working at high-street locations:

- you must work within one metre of the promotional stand (or equivalent) which must be no more than one metre away from the shopfront; and
- your position and the stand must not affect other businesses.
- If this standard contradicts or conflicts with any conditions included in an agreement with the relevant site owner or manager, the site agreement will apply.

5.5. You must wear charity-branded clothing if you do not have a promotional stand. Charity-branded clothing:

- must be visible and identifiable;
- must not be tied around your waist or covered by non-charity branded clothing or other property, or be in any way obscured; and
- must be clean and in good condition to make sure the brand can be seen and to protect its reputation.

5.6. You must wear an ID badge, that:

- includes your identity as a fundraiser, who you work for and a phone number for the relevant charitable institution or third-party fundraiser;
- is clearly displayed and has not been tampered with;
- is in the form of a badge fixed to the upper front part of your body;
- is at least the size of a credit card;
- is signed or authorised in some other way (for example, with a company seal or stamp) by the employing agency or the charity you are collecting on behalf of (or both); and
- is accessible for people with sight difficulties (for example, the information on the ID badge could be available in large print).

5.7. If you have approached a member of the public, you must meet the ‘three-step’ rule.

- You must not take more than three steps alongside the person or to follow them, even if they ask you to.
- If the member of the public has not come to a stop within the three steps allowed, you must end your attempt to talk to them.

If you have successfully started a conversation with a person, you can take more than three steps to escort them to a promotional stand, or to a different part of a promotional stand.

Stairway to Heaven Charity
Last Updated - 01/08/2023

By signing below, I hereby agree to the Code of Conduct for Stairway to Heaven Charity Fundraisers.

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: ____/____/____