

PANHANDLING AND SQUEEGEEING

Aggressive solicitation and solicitation of a captive audience are illegal. Soliciting is asking for money from someone whether or not you provide any services in return. Solicitation includes panhandling and squeegeeing.

- usually, passive panhandling (e.g. merely holding out hand, asking for spare change) is not illegal
- aggressive panhandling is illegal: confronting, obstructing, touching and threatening pedestrians, using abusive language, being intoxicated or persistent while soliciting.
- it is illegal to panhandle at ATMs, pay phones, public toilets, transit stops and vehicles, cars in parking lots and vehicles on roadways
- it is illegal to squeegee on roadways
- \$500 fine (first offence); up to \$1000 fine and/or 6 months imprisonment (repeat offences)
- a police officer who reasonably believes that you are committing an offence can arrest you without a warrant if the officer warned you prior to the incident OR arresting you is necessary to establish your identity or prevent more violations
- the police can only take your things (including your squeegee) as evidence if you are suspected of using them to commit a crime (e.g. theft, assault, robbery)
- if you ask for your things back, usually they must be returned to you within 3 months
- panhandling and squeegeeing can lead to criminal charges for causing a disturbance, and/or loitering, while in a public place

Lawyer referral service: GTA (416) 947-3330
Elsewhere in Ontario: 1-800-268-8326

Justice for Children & Youth: GTA (416) 920-1633
Elsewhere in Ontario: 1-866-999-JFCY (5329)
www.jfcy.org

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