



### Contact the Department if you have a problem.

- > If you suffer a financial loss as the result of an auction, you may be able to apply to the Auctioneer Recovery Fund for relief.
- > The Auctioneer Recovery Fund was set up to help individuals who were wronged financially by a licensed auctioneer. An individual filing a claim must meet conditions outlined in sections 468.392-468.397, Florida Statutes. In order to do so, you must establish the following:
  - The violation occurred within the last two years.
  - The auctioneer must have been licensed in Florida at the time of the contract and at the time of the violation.
  - The violation must have occurred in Florida.
  - You need to have received a final judgment in civil court or an order from the Board requiring restitution to you.
  - You must establish that you have attempted to collect the funds owed to you from the licensee.

Learn more about the Auctioneer Recovery Fund at the Department's website:

<http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com/dbpr/pro/auct/>

**For more information:** This brochure highlights some of the key issues you should be aware of when hiring an auctioneer. You can learn more about the laws and rules governing auctioneers, download an application for the Recovery Fund, check on a license, file a complaint, and see if an auctioneer has any public complaints by going to our website at: <https://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr/pro/auct/>

You can also call our **Customer Contact Center** at **1.850.487.1395**, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time.

To report unlicensed activity, please call the Department's **Unlicensed Activity Hotline** at **1.866.532.1440**, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern Time) or e-mail the information to [ULA@dbpr.state.fl.us](mailto:ULA@dbpr.state.fl.us).

For more information about the **Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation**, go to [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com)

Florida Department of  
**Business & Professional Regulation**

License efficiently. Regulate fairly.  
1940 N. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399



**Protect Your Property...**  
Hire Only Licensed Auctioneers

Florida Department of  
**Business & Professional Regulation**



# Do you have some personal items you want to auction? Are you planning an estate auction?

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation can help you find a licensed auctioneer. Finding an auctioneer is easy. Hiring the right auctioneer takes a little more effort. You will want to consider several things before you sign a contract.



## Find out the auctioneer's specialty.

- > Many auctioneers specialize in only a few types of auctions.
- > They will know the market best. They can determine the value of the items you want to sell, and they will know how to attract the buyers most interested in your property.

## Make sure the person is licensed.

- > Both the auctioneer and their auction business must be licensed.
- > The auctioneer's license number begins with "AU," followed by a set of numbers. The auction business license number begins with "AB," followed by a set of numbers.
- > Auctioneers must display their licenses at the auction site, and include the numbers in all advertising such as yellow page advertisements and newspapers.
- > You can verify the license online at [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com).

## Ask for a resume and references.

- > Reputable auctioneers will be happy to provide information on their background and experience, along with the names and phone numbers of satisfied customers for you to contact.
- > Talk with your friends, neighbors, and relatives about their experiences with auctioneers.
- > Interview several auctioneers before you decide.

## Make a checklist.

- > Before the auction, you should get an inventory of your goods, and a copy of the written contract.
- > After the auction, the auctioneer should pay you for any items sold within 30 days of the sale.
- > The auctioneer should also account for, pay, or return any unsold property to you within 30 days after the sale.