



Protect Your Property... Hire Only Licensed Auctioneers

Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation

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 **www.myfloridalicense.com**.

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).



Florida Department of Business
& Professional Regulation

2601 Blair Stone Road,
Tallahassee FL 32399



Do you have some personal property or goods you want to auction?



The Department of Business and Professional Regulation can help you find a reputable, licensed auctioneer. You will want to consider several things before you sign a contract.

Do your homework.

- > Before you hire someone, check around.
- > Look in the Yellow Pages, read the auction ads in newspapers and call professional associations for references.
- > Talk with your friends, neighbors, and relatives about their experiences.

Make sure the person is 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.

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.
- > Interview several auctioneers before you decide.

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.

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.

Call the department if you have a problem.

- > If you suffer a financial loss as the result of an auction, you can apply to the Auctioneer Recovery Fund for relief.
- > Find out more about the Recovery Fund at the department's website.