

STATE TELEMARKETING LAWS

Rhode Island

Telemarketing and Robocall Laws

Statutes, rules, and how they differ from the TCPA



By Adam Young and Harrison Gevirtz

<https://tcpa.com/state-telemarketing-laws/rhode-island/>

01. Telephone Sales Solicitation Act

R.I. GEN. LAWS §§ 5-61-1 TO 5-61-6

Annual Attorney General registration and \$30,000 security for telephonic sellers, start-of-call disclosures, robocall consent and calling hours.

02. Texts and autodialers

R.I. GEN. LAWS §§ 5-61-3.5, 11-35-26

A broad limit on text message advertisements to Rhode Island residents, and a 5-second line release rule for automatic dialing systems.

AT A GLANCE

Rhode Island at a glance

WHY RHODE ISLAND MATTERS

Unsolicited sales calls may run only 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, with no Sunday calls, about half the federal window. Promotional texts are restricted too.



Who and what is covered

"Telephone solicitation" is "the engagement of a telephone conversation" to encourage a purchase of property, investments, goods or services, or to gather information for sales (§ 5-61-1).

Telephonic sellers

Registration and most conduct rules reach a "telephonic seller" whose calls meet the criteria of § 5-61-2(9), such as prize or gift offers.

Aa. Callers

Sellers soliciting from Rhode Island locations or soliciting buyers located in the state.

Bb. Exemptions

Prior purchasers, financial institutions, utility-regulated firms, public issuers and more.

Cc. Texts

The text advertisement rule reaches any person or entity doing business in the state.

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Text message advertisements

\$500

No person or entity doing business in Rhode Island may send a text message advertisement to a cellular phone or pager of a Rhode Island resident (§ 5-61-3.5(a)). The rule applies whether or not an autodialer is used.

Existing relationship

A business with an existing relationship may text if it offers an opt-out. Carrier and affiliate-consent exceptions also apply.

No bare consent rule

There is no express exception for consent without a relationship. Review consent from third-party lead sources with care.

01. Company-specific lists

R.I. GEN. LAWS § 5-61-3.5(a)

No unsolicited sales calls to residential, mobile or paging numbers without do-not-call procedures that comply with 47 C.F.R. Part 64 or 16 C.F.R. Part 310.

02. State misdemeanor

R.I. GEN. LAWS § 5-61-3.5(b)

The federal company-specific rules become state law here, and a violation is a misdemeanor with a fine of up to \$500 per violation.

DO-NOT-CALL

Do-not-call and opt-outs

IN PRACTICE

Rhode Island keeps no state do-not-call list and sells none. Calls to numbers on the National Do Not Call Registry are governed by federal law, so scrub against it.



Calling hours and days

Unsolicited telephonic sales calls to residential, mobile or paging numbers are allowed only during the "hours of operation" defined in § 5-61-2(2). No time zone is stated.

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Weekday call hours

Nine hours on weekdays and seven on Saturdays, against the federal 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day.



9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday to Friday, except a state or federal holiday. Saturdays run 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



No Sundays

Sunday is outside the defined hours. A violation is a misdemeanor, up to \$500 each.

Robocalls and autodialers

Section 11-35-26(b) defines an automatic telephone dialing system with a random or sequential number generator test, like the federal one, plus capacity to deliver a prerecorded message.

Consent or live operator

Under § 5-61-3.4, no ADAD use unless the subscriber consented, or a live operator first obtains consent and names the business and purpose.

Aa. **Disconnect**

Release the line within 5 seconds after the subscriber hangs up.

Bb. **Identify**

True name, company and goods or services within the first 30 seconds of the call.

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Cc. **Caller ID**

No state caller ID statute; the Truth in Caller ID Act and the TSR apply.



Registration and security

At least 10 days before doing business in Rhode Island, a telephonic seller registers with the consumer protection unit of the Attorney General. No calls until the written confirmation arrives.

\$30,000

Minimum security

A bond, letter of credit or certificate of deposit; the department may require more (§ 5-61-3.1(b)).



\$100 filing fee

Valid one year and renewable for another \$100. Report material changes within 10 days.



Verified filing

Principals sign under penalty of perjury; list every phone number, script and salesperson.



Lawsuits and penalties



Triple

A purchaser may recover triple the amount paid to a seller in material violation, plus attorney fees.

\$500

DTPA: actual damages or \$500, whichever is greater, up to triple, with class actions; a purchase is needed.

\$10,000



AG civil penalty per violation. A willful violation can bring up to one year in prison.



Rhode Island vs. the TCPA

Rhode Island is stricter on calling hours, registration, security and promotional texts. It is looser in that it has no state do-not-call list, no per-call private damages and no caller ID statute, and it accepts live-operator consent.

Rhode Island

Calls 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, 10 to 5 Saturdays, no Sundays, \$30,000 security, AG registration.

Federal TCPA

Calls 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day, no registration or security, \$500 per call, up to \$1,500 if willful.

Key court rulings

No reported Rhode Island state court decision construes chapter 5-61. Federal decisions in the District of Rhode Island address the state claims that came with TCPA claims.

The DTPA needs a purchase

Both courts dismissed DTPA claims because the consumer did not buy, and was not asked to buy, anything from the caller.

Aa. **Appriss**

D.R.I. 2020: no TCPA claim where the calls were not for solicitation or telemarketing.

Bb. **Students**

D.R.I. 2022: DTPA claims dismissed; § 227(d) gives no private cause of action.

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Cc. **State law**

No state court ruling yet on registration, texts or calling hours.

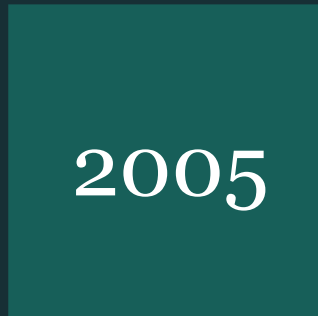


Amendment history



Text ad rule

P.L. 2003, ch. 98 and ch. 216 added the text message advertisement provision to § 5-61-3.5.



Exemptions

P.L. 2005, ch. 36 and ch. 72 amended the seller exemptions in § 5-61-2.



Filing contents

P.L. 2009, ch. 310 amended the registration filing contents in § 5-61-4.



Denial grounds

P.L. 2021, ch. 400 and 401, effective July 13, 2021, amended § 5-61-3.2. None since.

01. Registration and calls

R.I. GEN. LAWS §§ 5-61-2 TO 5-61-3.6

- Check seller status or an exemption in § 5-61-2(10).
- Register 10 days ahead; post \$30,000; await confirmation.
- Call 9 to 6 weekdays, 10 to 5 Saturdays, never Sundays.
- Give name, company and product within 30 seconds.

02. Texts, robocalls and lists

R.I. GEN. LAWS §§ 5-61-3.4, 5-61-3.5

- Text ads only with an existing relationship and opt-out.
- Get consent for prerecorded messages; release in 5 seconds.
- Keep FCC and TSR do-not-call procedures; scrub the registry.

CHECKLIST

Compliance checklist

PLEASE NOTE

This checklist summarizes state law for general information and is not legal advice. Statutes change; confirm current text with the official source.



Sources behind this deck (1 of 2)

RHODE ISLAND LAW

[R.I. Gen. Laws ch. 5-61](#) Telephone Sales Solicitation Act (index)

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-61-1](#) telephone solicitation

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-61-2](#) definitions, hours, exemptions

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-61-3](#) registration

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-61-3.1](#) security

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-61-3.2](#) denial of registration

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-61-3.3](#) disclosures

RHODE ISLAND LAW (CONTINUED)

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-61-3.4](#) prerecorded messages

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-61-3.5](#) do-not-call; text ads

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-61-3.6](#) hours of operation

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-61-4](#) filing contents

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-61-5](#) criminal penalties

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-61-5.1](#) civil remedies

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 11-35-26](#) dialing systems that fail to disconnect

Read the full Rhode Island guide: <https://tcpa.com/state-telemarketing-laws/rhode-island/>

Sources continued (2 of 2)

RHODE ISLAND LAW (CONTINUED)

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 6-13.1-5.2](#) DTPA private action

[R.I. Gen. Laws § 6-13.1-8](#) DTPA civil penalty

[P.L. 2003, ch. 216](#) text message advertisements

COURT DECISIONS

[Laccinole v. Appriss, Inc.](#), No. 1:19-cv-00605 (D.R.I. Apr. 13, 2020)

[Laccinole v. Students for Life Action Inc.](#), No. 1:21-cv-00252 (D.R.I. Aug. 4, 2022)

FEDERAL LAW

[47 U.S.C. § 227](#) Telephone Consumer Protection Act

[47 C.F.R. § 64.1200](#) FCC telemarketing and robocall rules

[16 C.F.R. Part 310](#) FTC Telemarketing Sales Rule

Read the full Rhode Island guide: <https://tcpa.com/state-telemarketing-laws/rhode-island/>

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Full text: <https://tcpa.com/disclaimer/> and <https://tcpa.com/terms/>

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The law changes

Current as of October 15, 2026. Statutes, FCC and FTC rules and court decisions change, and some changes are adopted before they take effect. This deck may not reflect later developments.

Courts disagree. Courts in different places can read the same rule differently. Case summaries are not predictions: any other matter turns on its own facts, court and law.

Check the official source. Verify each point against the statute, rule or opinion on the Sources slides. If an official source and this deck differ, the official source controls.

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Read the full Rhode Island guide on TCPA.com

The guide covers registration and security, calling hours, the text ad rule, robocalls, penalties, key rulings and a compliance checklist, with links to the official sources.



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Adam Young is a Miami entrepreneur, the CEO of Ringba and the author of The Pay Per Call Revolution, with more than a decade in telecom, call routing and performance marketing. At TCPA.com he writes about the TCPA, robocall enforcement, tech support fraud cases and what DOJ, FTC and FCC actions mean for companies that make calls. His goal is simple: keep good companies compliant and keep scammers off the phone network.

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