

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 · MADISON, WI 53701 · (608) 256-8900 · WWW.FFRF.ORG

December 27, 2010

SENT VIA FAX & U.S. MAIL
(847) 741-1959

Postmaster
United States Post Office- Elgin
66 Grove Ct
Elgin IL 60120-5588

Re: Salvation Army Bell Ringers on Post Office Grounds

Dear Postmaster:

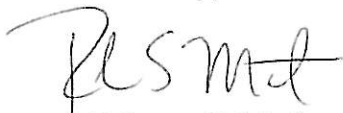
Our national organization, which works to protect the constitutional principle of separation between state and church, was alerted to a postal regulation violation occurring at your location.

It is our information and understanding that the Salvation Army has regularly stationed a bell ringer at your post office. Our complainant informs us that the bell ringer is located right next to the door of the post office.

The Post Office cannot allow a Salvation Army bell ringer to solicit donations on postal property. To do so is a violation of postal regulations. *See* POM §124.54. The regulations state specifically that "soliciting alms and contributions... or impeding the access to or egress from Post Offices are prohibited." POM §124.54(a). Furthermore, "no tables, chairs, freestanding signs or posters, structures, or furniture of any type may be placed in postal lobbies or on postal walkways, steps, plazas, lawns or landscaped areas, driveways, parking lots, or other exterior spaces." POM §124.57(d).

We ask that you direct the Salvation Army to relocate its solicitation to another location. Given the multitude of private businesses in Elgin, there is ample space for the Salvation Army to conduct its fundraising off of government property. We request a response in writing about the steps you are taking to remedy this violation.

Sincerely,



Rebecca S. Markert
Staff Attorney