

## Notice of Caution

**To:** Licensed Auctioneers,  
Apprentice Auctioneers and  
Auction Firms  
**From:** Robert A. Hamilton, Executive  
Director  
**Subject:** Calling Bids for an Unlicensed  
Firm

**Message:** In the last several months there have been several investigations concerning licensed auctioneers and apprentice auctioneers who have called bids for unlicensed auction firms.

Please be reminded that the Board may assess a civil penalty, deny, suspend, or revoke a license, or issue a letter of reprimand to a licensee, upon the grounds of calling a bid at an unlicensed auction firm sale as referenced in Section 4B .0404(a) (5) of the Auctioneer Licensing Board's Rules.

Be reminded that Auction Firms are defined as "arranging, sponsoring, managing, conducting or advertising auctions, or that in the regular course of business uses or allows the use of its facilities for auctions."

Section 4B .0401(b) states "that an auction firm shall display its license in a prominent place upon its premises, so as to be visible for inspection by patrons of the firm."

Check the firm's license. It should be in an obvious place. If you do not see it, ask for it. If they cannot show you their license, be very suspicious.

### **You are responsible.**

Some of these unlicensed auction firms have "duped" licensed auctioneers into making some "easy" money, when in the end the licensed auctioneer is ultimately responsible.

Many of these unlicensed firms come in from out-of-state, do quick advertising and the auction, then quickly leave the State. Some of the goods these firms are selling consist of: fake Tiffany lamps, fake Remington Bronzes, "hand-made" mahogany furniture, oriental rugs that are "appraised" higher than their true value, signed "fine" original art and signed "authentic" sports memorabilia.

If their offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Please feel free to call this office before contracting to do a suspicious auction. It could mean the difference between having the Board take official action against you or not.

**We are here to help you, use us.**

### **North Carolina Auctioneer Licensing Board**

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