



HOUSING
ALLIANCE
DELAWARE

Panhandling Laws in Delaware are Unconstitutional!

What is panhandling/solicitation?

Panhandling/solicitation is asking for money in public spaces. Delaware is one of just six states that criminalizes and restricts panhandling in public. People experiencing homelessness are harmed by these laws.

What is the issue?

- Delaware's current panhandling laws are unconstitutional. Everyone has a right to speak and ask for help in public.
- Counterproductive: A person who already cannot afford housing will be harmed by incurring fines, fees and criminal prosecution. Fining people that don't have money is counterproductive.
- Harmful and dehumanizing: Furthers marginalizes communities that already see higher homeless rates and violates the civil rights of all humans

“People who are in need and not afraid to beg give people not in need the occasion to do good for goodness’ sake.”

Peter Maurin

How can you help?

- Contact Sonya Starr, Policy Director at sonyastarr@housingalliance.org to join the panhandling/loitering advocate list.
- Oppose solicitation/panhandling and loitering ordinances in your municipality.