

Dating Service Consumer Bill of Rights

New York State Law provides protections for consumers entering into social referral service contracts. These contracts are defined as "any service for a fee providing matching of members of the opposite sex, by use of computer or any other means, for the purpose of dating and general social contact."

1. No social referral service contract shall require the payment by you, the purchaser, of an amount greater than one thousand dollars. In addition, no such contract may extend over a period of time greater than two years.
2. No social referral service contract shall require you, the purchaser, to purchase a good or service which is directly or indirectly related to the social referral service. These extra services are known as ancillary services, and, while these ancillary service may be offered to you, the law prohibits the seller from requiring that you purchase this service as a condition of your social referral service contract.
3. If your social referral service contract costs more than twenty-five dollars, the seller must furnish a minimum number of referrals per month to you. If this minimum amount is not furnished to you for two successive months, you have the option of cancelling the contract and receiving a full refund of all the money you paid, less a cancellation fee which cannot exceed either fifteen percent of the cash price or a pro rata amount for the number of referrals furnished to you.
4. Your social referral service contract must specify the distance which you, the purchaser, are willing to travel to meet any social referral. No social referrals shall be furnished where you and the referral live at a distance greater than the distance specified in the contract.
5. The provider must have an established policy to address the situation of your moving outside the area it services. This policy must be explained in your contract.
6. If any provision of the social referral service contract is violated, you have the right to bring a court action against the provider which has violated the contract.

In addition to these rights, state law requires:

- every contract to provide each consumer with the unilateral right to place his or her membership on hold for a period of up to one year; provided., however the agency and the consumer may mutually agree to a longer period not to exceed two years; and
- every contract to provide the consumer a three-business-day right to cancel without fee. Cancellation must be made in writing and must be delivered by certified or registered U.S. mail to an address specified in the contract.

Individuals wishing to file a complaint against a social referral/dating service are encouraged to contact the Attorney General's consumer help line at (800) 771-7755.