

Steps to deal with Powerline Personnel

1. A) You don't have to grant permission. If a utility or its contractor asks to come onto your property and they don't have an easement, court order, or statutory authority, simply state:

"I do not consent to any entry onto my property. Please leave my property now."

If they insist on entering your property and they do not have a valid right of way, call the Sheriff and inform the perpetrator that you will charge them with trespass.

Do not sign a "Right of Entry," "Survey Permission," or similar document without understanding its implications.

1. B) Know that you can serve them with a No-Trespass notice in advance, which bolsters your case if you have to call the sheriff.

2. Ask them specific questions. Request the following:

- Who do you work for?
- Are you an employee or contractor?
- What project are you working on?
- What transmission line?
- What voltage?
- What route?
- Are you requesting permission or claiming legal authority?
- Under what specific easement, court order, or statutory authority are you trying to enter my property?

If they claim they have authority, ask them to identify and show you the specific easement, right-of-way, statutory authority or court order.

3. If they claim an easement, right-of-way or court order, verify it.
Check:

- Your deed
- Title policy
- County Clerk's Office

4. Document everything. Take photographs of:

- workers
- trucks
- equipment
- survey stakes
- ribbons
- flagging
- GPS equipment

Record:

- dates
- times
- names
- license plates
- conversations

If litigation ever occurs, this information can be valuable.

5. Don't sign anything. Utilities often present documents described as "just for surveying." Sometimes those documents include:

- broad access rights
- permission for repeated entries
- waivers of liability
- admissions concerning property boundaries

Do not sign anything without reviewing it carefully. This is critical. If you sign a document, then they may have a legal contract.

*Shared by Delegate Ridenour via WV Resident Shelly Nielson