

Give to the Needy, Not the Greedy

A Giving Guide for Donating to Charities

Before you donate, remember...

Tips for Giving

- ✗ **Do not** give cash.
- ✗ **Do not** give out your credit card number.
- ✗ Write a check payable **only to the charity**, not to an individual collecting a donation.
- ✗ **Do not** be pressured into giving.
- ✗ Find out if a charity and its fund-raisers are **registered** by contacting the office of the Oklahoma Secretary of State.
- ✗ **Do not** give to a charity because you were sent a “gift” or just to receive a “free prize.”
- ✗ **Do not** be fooled by names that sound similar to a legitimate charity.
- ✗ **Do not** pay for something that you didn’t order.
- ✗ **Beware** of organizations offering to send a courier to pick up your donation.
- ✗ **Take time** to get as much information and learn as much as you can about the organization before you decide to make a contribution.
- ✗ **Do not** do business over the phone, ask for information in the mail.
- ✗ **Give directly** to the charity of your choice. This cuts out the middle man and ensures your money will go where you intended.
- ✗ **Check out** the charity with impartial sources.
- ✗ **Beware** of appeals that are long on emotion but short on fact.

Remember
It’s Your Money.
Do Your Homework.
Give Wisely.

Report suspicious charity solicitations to:

**Office of the Attorney General
Consumer Protection Unit
4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Ste. 260
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-521-2029 (OKC)
918-581-2885 (Tulsa)
www.oag.state.ok.us**

When contacted to donate...

Ask Questions

- ✓ What is your full name?
- ✓ What is the phone number and address from which you are calling?
- ✓ What is the full name of the charity you are representing?
- ✓ What is the headquarters address?
- ✓ What is the phone number?
- ✓ Does the charity have a local office in my area?
- ✓ How long has the charity been operating?
- ✓ What are its goals and purposes?
- ✓ How will my donation be used?
- ✓ Is my contribution tax deductible?
- ✓ How much of my donation will go directly to the charity?
- ✓ What portion of it will actually be spent on the purpose of the charity?
- ✓ How much of it will be used in Oklahoma?
- ✓ What percentage of my donation will go to fundraising?
- ✓ Are you a volunteer for the charity or are you paid to raise funds?
- ✓ If you are paid, how much?
- ✓ Will you send me printed literature about the charity, its goals, program(s) and expenses, including a current financial statement?

Don’t Become a Victim of Charity Fraud