

## **INTRODUCTION**

There are many worthy charities that need your donations and rely on your generosity.

Unfortunately, there are also many con artists who will take advantage of your generosity to line their pockets.

In many cases, unscrupulous fundraisers claim to be associated with organizations that sound like well-known charities.

In other cases paid fundraisers resorting to high pressure tactics to get your donation. Money that never ends up helping the cause you intended.

So how can you be sure your contributions end up where you wanted?

This brochure has important tips to keep in mind before you give.

## **Do Your Homework**

Before giving to any group, check the organization's background to find out exactly how your contribution will be used.

The group should be willing to give you its annual report, which outlines where the money goes, how much is used for salaries and other expenses and how much helps the cause itself.

Check to see what percentage of money the charitable organization spends on fundraising expenses. The Council of the Better Business Standards state, "No more than half a charity's total income should be spent on administrative and fundraising costs."

If an organization refuses to give you financial information, give to a group that will.

You can also research a charity's rating and reputation

with The National Charities Information Bureau or the Secretary of State's Office. In Kansas charitable organization must register with the Secretary of State's Office before raising any money and report to them. Check out your charity before giving at:

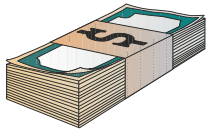
<http://www.kscharitycheck.org/>

## **Charitable Giving Tips**

- Beware of giving to any group that pressures you for money.
- Get all information in writing, especially how the group spends its money.
- Never give to any group that uses high pressure to get your donation.
- Be wary of groups that solicit you on the phone. The telemarketers may keep a large portion of your donation.
- Give directly to the charity and not through a third-party. That way you know your money is going where you intended.
- Ask if your contribution is tax deductible. There's a difference between tax deductible and tax exempt.

## **WARNING SIGNS**

1. Groups wanting you to make an immediate donation.
2. Groups that use names similar to well-known charities.
3. Groups that refuse to provide you information in writing.
4. Groups that use high-pressure techniques.
5. Groups that promise free gifts to lure you into giving
6. Groups that ask for your social security number or credit card numbers over the phone.



## **COMPLAINT NUMBERS**

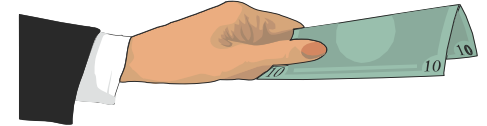
Johnson County District  
Attorney's Office  
Consumer Fraud  
913-715-3003  
White Collar Crime Unit  
913-715-3140

Kansas Attorney General's  
Office  
1-800-432-2310

Kansas Secretary of State's  
Office  
<http://www.kscharitycheck.org/>  
785-296-4565

National Charities  
Information Bureau  
<http://www.bbb.org/us/charity/>

## **Giving To Charity**



**From the  
Office of the District Attorney  
Tenth Judicial District  
Stephen M. Howe  
District Attorney**

**Johnson County, Kansas  
CONSUMER PROTECTION**



