



Douglas County
District Attorney
Charles Branson

Dear Douglas County Residents,

Giving to worthy causes is part of our legacy in Douglas County. We are known for our compassion to those who may be less fortunate than us or who have been touched by disasters, both natural and man-made.

Unfortunately, our kindness also makes us attractive targets to thieves and scammers.

I am proud to be part of a community as generous as ours, but I want to insure you have the tools to protect yourself from those who want to walk away with your money, never intending to help another soul.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Branson

Summary

*If in doubt; check out the organization, you can always donate at a later time.

*Make donations by check. Cash donations cannot be traced and are easily pocketed.

*Never give credit card or bank account information to any charity or organization you are unfamiliar with.

*Determine what percentage of your contribution actually goes to the charitable effort. High administrative costs are a way for frauds to skim most of your donation.

*Be very leery of high emotional or high pressure requests.

*Determine if your contribution is tax deductible.

*Do not determine a cause's worthiness by an impressive name or suggestion that they are a part of law enforcement. Implying association with law enforcement is a common tactic of scammers.

A GUIDE TO CHARITABLE DONATIONS



Give Safely

Give Confidently

Give Responsibly

Don't give scammers a chance to take your hard earned money!

Provided by Douglas
County District
Attorney
Charles E. Branson

Investigate Before You Donate

Scammers often use names similar to well-known charities or pretend to raise money for state of local law enforcement agencies. Before you donate to an organization, make sure it actually serves the cause you want to support.

- *Ask for financial statements of the organization to determine who will benefit from your donation.
- *Perform an internet search on the charity to see if they have an informational website or if someone has posted a complaint about them.
- *Visit www.kscharitycheck.org or call (785) 296-4565 for a list of charitable organizations registered in Kansas, information on your rights as a consumer and the Kansas Charitable Organization and Solicitation Act.
- *Visit www.give.org for information on tax deduction qualifications and charity ratings.
- *Check the Better Business Bureau for complaints about the charity: (785) 232-0454.



Responding to Solicitations

Keep the following tips in mind when asked to donate money by mail, phone or at the door.

- *Never give cash, credit card or bank account information to an organization.** Always pay by check so you have a receipt of your contribution.
- *Do not fall for high pressure or emotional appeals.** Many charities use words such as “urgent,” “critical” and “immediate,” but any reputable charity will welcome your contribution when you are ready to give.
- *Do not feel obligated to pay for a gift you did not order.** Charities often send token gifts such as key chains, greeting cards or mailing labels along with donation appeals.
- *Be wary of charities with impressive or familiar sounding names.** Many charities say they are devoted to similar causes, but it is best to decide in advance which charity conducts the most effective program you want to fund.
- *You are under no obligation to provide a donation directly to the solicitor at the door.** Ask for written material about the charity’s program or a web address to research on your own and send your contribution directly to the charity.

For further information you may contact my office at 841-0211 (main number), 330-2849 (consumer protection division) or e-mail me at districtattorney@douglas-county.com. You may also wish to view further information on my web page at www.dgcoda.com.



Part of this document was composed with information from Kansas Attorney General Paul J. Morrison. www.ksag.org