

WHY GIVE WISELY?

Every year hundreds of millions of dollars are lost to deceptive individuals and organizations posing as legitimate charities. In Los Angeles alone, it is estimated that millions of dollars are lost to deceptive solicitors annually who pose as legitimate charities. Do not fall prey to these deceptive practices.

Past Supreme Court decisions upheld the right of individual organizations to solicit on behalf of “charitable causes” without having to meet minimum standards for percentages of fundraising costs versus benefit. Because it is difficult to discern between legitimate and unscrupulous solicitations. It is increasingly more challenging to hold these groups accountable.

RESOURCES

Better Business Bureau, Wise Giving Alliance
website: [give.org](https://www.give.org)

California Department of Justice Attorney General
website: oag.ca.gov/charities

Your Guide to Intelligent Giving by Charity Navigator
website: charitynavigator.org/index.cfm



Los Angeles Police Commission
Charitable Services Section

CONTACT US



213-996-1260



lapdonline.org/police-commission/cid/charitable-services-section



100 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012



GIVE WISELY

Investigate Before You Donate



Los Angeles Police Commission
Charitable Services Section



GIVING BASICS

Mail Appeals

Solicitations received by mail should identify the charity and describe its programs in clear and specific language. Beware of appeals that bring tears to your eyes but tell you nothing of the charity or what it is doing about the problem it describes so well.

Charitable Solicitations by Mail

Select which charities you want to support and discard appeals from other groups you do not wish to support. Don't feel guilty about not supporting all of the groups writing to you; they do not expect a donation from every person they solicit. Also, do not feel obligated to support them because they have provided you with a gift (such as mailing labels).

For more information on how to handle unwanted mail, write to the BBB Wise Giving Alliance at 4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 800, Arlington, VA 22203.

Telephone, Door-to-Door, and Street Solicitations

When you are approached for a contribution of either your time or your money, ask questions, and don't give a donation until you are satisfied with the answers. Charities with good intentions will encourage your inquisitiveness.

When you are asked to buy candy, magazines, or tickets to a show to benefit a charity, be sure to ask what the charity's share will be. If the solicitor is hostile or refuses to leave your property upon request - notify the police.

Don't Click on the Link

Be careful about clicking on links or QR codes that appear in charity appeals within social media and emails. Scammers may direct you to a false page in order to steal your personal data. If interested in the referenced organization, visit the charity's website on your own.



Protect Yourself and Your Community

- Know how to spot suspicious solicitations
- Ask the right questions
- Find out about the organization
- Make your own decision

LOS ANGELES POLICE COMMISSION | CID - CHARITABLE SERVICES SECTION
<https://www.lapdonline.org/police-commission/cid/charitable-services-section/>

- ✓ DO verify that a **Los Angeles Police Commission Information Card** is displayed at the solicitation site or provided upon request.
- ✓ DO prepare a "giving plan" ahead of time, based on research, so you do not feel pressured to give to everyone who asks for a donation.
- ✓ IF the soliciting is for a law enforcement or fire department, call that department directly to ensure that it is actually participating in the fundraiser. The Los Angeles Police and Fire Departments do not solicit donations by telephone, nor do they conduct door-to-door solicitation.

Watch out for statements such as "all proceeds will go to the charity". This can mean that the money left after expenses will go to the charity.

- ✗ DO NOT give cash; instead, make contributions by check(s) or credit card to the organization.
- ✗ DO NOT give in to pressure to give on the spot. Don't allow any caller to intimidate you or bully you into giving or buying something "right now".
- ✗ DO NOT be fooled by names that look impressive or that closely resemble the name of a well-know organization or celebrity.

When in doubt:

- Contact the California Attorney General's website: oag.ca.gov/charities, to verify the organization is legitimate
- OR, contact the LA Police Commission, Charitable Services Section if a fundraiser uses tactics such as intimidation, threats, or repeated and harassing call or visits.
Tel (213) 996-1260, Email: pcharity@lapd.online