

Be on the Look Out for Phony Online Fundraising Campaigns



Floridians should also be on the lookout for deceptive or phony online fundraising campaigns posted on crowdsourcing platforms, such as GoFundMe. It is important to do your own research before you give to make sure that the crowdfunding cause is real, and that the money actually goes to the intended recipient. Review the following tips before making a contribution:

- Consider giving to campaigns created by known and trusted individuals;
- Try to find out who the campaign organizer is and perform a quick online search. If you can not find the organizer online, or the details you find do not match what the campaign page says, be suspicious;
- In your web browser, search for the campaign text or do a reverse image search for images associated with the campaign. Oftentimes scammers use stolen text or photos from other people's social media stories; and
- Report any suspicious information or concerns to the Attorney General's Office and the host platform.

Report Charity Scams

Floridians can report charity scams to the Attorney General's Office by calling **1(866)9NO-SCAM** or visiting MyFloridaLegal.com.

Florida Attorney General's Office Scams at a Glance: Charity Scams

Visit MyFloridaLegal.com to find consumer tips or to file a complaint. By remaining vigilant and informed, savvy consumers can help us build a Stronger, Safer Florida.

Report fraud by calling
1-866-9-NO-SCAM
(1-866-966-7226)

View other Scams at a Glance
resources at:
MyFloridaLegal.com/ScamsAtAGlance



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Scams at a Glance: Charity Scams



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What are Charity Scams?

Scam artists prey on the goodwill of others by posing as representatives of legitimate charities or creating fictitious charities in order to solicit funds online, in person or over the phone.

Often these scams emerge following a disaster or an international tragedy in an attempt to exploit the generosity of goodhearted donors. Connecting fraudulent solicitations to major news events adds an additional sense of urgency and community to charity scams.



Tips to Avoid Charity Scams:

- Before donating, ensure the charity is an accredited organization with the Better Business Bureau by searching the BBB Wise Giving Alliance website at [Give.org](https://www.give.org).



- Do not provide banking information to someone who calls or emails unsolicited on behalf of a charity. If interested in donating, ask that the charity mail or email you information and a pledge form.



- Research how the charity uses donations. Visit [CharityNavigator.org](https://www.charitynavigator.org) to see the organization's spending breakdown.



- Pay close attention to a charity's name, logo and email address. It is not unusual for scammers to create sham charities with names and designs similar to legitimate, well-known charities.



- Consider donating to a legitimate charity before being solicited.

