

# CAN YOU SPOT CHARITY SCAMS?

Following a tragic event, there is often an outpouring of support for victims, and there are those who will attempt to take advantage. Before you open your wallet, consider these tips:



## AVOID PRESSURE TACTICS

Be wary of emotional appeals, such as “urgent” or “critical” from unfamiliar organizations.

## WATCH OUT FOR SIMILAR NAMES

Some phony charities use names that closely resemble those of respected, legitimate organizations.



## AVOID PAYING CASH

Unless it is a local charity you already know, it is best to pay by check — made payable to the charity, not the solicitor.

## IF GIVING ONLINE, MAKE SURE THE WEBSITE IS SECURE

Look for a lock icon on the browser’s status bar or a URL that begins “https.”



## DO YOUR HOMEWORK

- Get written information about the charity
- Visit [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) to view ratings of how efficiently charities use donations.
- In Ohio, charitable solicitation organizations must register with the **Ohio Attorney General’s Office**. To check on a group’s registration or complaint history, call the Help Center at **800-282-0515**

# BECAUSE YOU WANT YOUR DONATION TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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