

## Tips for Donors

It is crucial for donors to research a charity before making a contribution. To ensure that your donation benefits the causes and individuals you would like to assist, the Office of the Nevada Attorney offers the following suggestions:

- Do not make a donation without conducting preliminary research. Ask for detailed information about the charity, including the name, address and telephone number. Then, conduct some online searches of the charity name in combination with the words “complaint” or “scam” to learn about its reputation. Using online resources offered by the [Nevada Secretary of State](#) and the [Better Business Bureau](#) can also provide assurance about the trustworthiness of a particular charity. [Charity Watch](#) and [Charity Navigator](#) also provide information on charitable organizations.
- Review the charity’s financial information or its Form 990. For information on the Form 990, visit the [Nevada Secretary of State website](#). If a charity claims to use your donations to help the local community, contact the local agency and confirm whether the agency is familiar with the charity and receives financial support from it.
- Be wary of solicitations from professional fundraisers who appear to represent a charity. Call the charity directly to verify whether the fundraisers are authorized to act on its behalf. Never make checks payable to a fundraiser, and refrain from providing your credit card number to a fundraiser. Do not feel pressured to give money over the phone. The safest way to make a donation is to mail your check directly to the charity.
- Ask for a receipt showing the amount of your contribution. Be wary of promises of guaranteed sweepstakes or prizes in exchange for a contribution. Donations never have to be given in order to be eligible to win a prize or sweepstakes.