



10 Tips on Wise Giving

- 1. Ask for the registration number of the solicitor and the charity.**
- 2. Check the charity's disclosure and financial statements on the Secretary of State's website.**
- 3. Ask the solicitor how much of the donation will go to the charity.**
- 4. Be wary if the charity fails to provide information about finances. Reputable charities will gladly provide the information requested.**
- 5. Watch out for charities with names that sound similar to well-known organizations. These sound-alike names are intended to confuse.**
- 6. Do not pay in cash – donate by check made payable to the charity.**
- 7. If solicited in person, ask to see the solicitor and charity's identification.**
- 8. Certain well-known charities such as the Red Cross will never solicit donations over the phone.**
- 9. Beware of unsolicited e-mail. Instead, go directly to the organization's website or call to make donations.**
- 10. If you feel uncomfortable, simply say "No thank you."**

If you believe that you have been solicited by a fraudulent charity, please file a complaint with the Secretary of State or the Attorney General.