



## NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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District Attorney

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### DISTRICT ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES CHARITABLE DONATION INFORMATION

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Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced information for Napa County residents regarding charitable donations. In the wake of the recent wildfire disasters, numerous charities have done and continue to do invaluable work to help our community. Unfortunately, criminals can take advantage of people's desire to donate during crises. Residents should beware of any charity or fundraiser that engage in the following tactics:

- Refuses to provide detailed information about identity, mission, costs, and how the donation will be used.
- Won't provide proof that a contribution is tax deductible.
- Uses a name that closely resembles that of a better-known, reputable organization.
- Thanks you for a pledge you don't remember making.
- Uses high-pressure tactics like trying to get you to donate immediately, without giving you time to think about it and do your research.
- Asks for donations in cash or asks you to wire money.
- Asks for your social security number.

It is important to take the following precautions to make sure that your donation benefits the people and organizations that you want to help:

- Check the charity's exact name, address, and telephone number, as well as registration status with the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts ([www.oag.ca.gov/charities](http://www.oag.ca.gov/charities)). You can also use the Registry to determine whether your donation to a particular charity will be tax-deductible.
- Ask for written materials describing the charity's programs, finances, tax-exempt status, and how your donation will be used. Websites that monitor the performance of non-profit organizations such as Charity Navigator (<https://www.charitynavigator.org>), Charity Watch (<https://www.charitywatch.org/home>), and GuideStar (<http://www.guidestar.org/Home.aspx>) can be helpful in this regard.
- Never send cash donations. For security and tax purposes, it's best to pay by check — made payable to the charity — or by credit card.
- Keep a record of your donations.

For more information on charitable donations, please see the Attorney General's website (<https://oag.ca.gov/donations>) and the Federal Trade Commission's website (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0074-giving-charity>). If you have a complaint about a charity, please contact the District Attorney's Office at <http://www.countyofnapa.org/da/consumerdivision> or (707) 253-4059, or the Attorney General's Charitable Trusts Section at <https://oag.ca.gov/charities>.