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financial and personal information from victims.

Isaac M. O'Bannon • Nov. 30, 2021



The Internal Revenue Service and Security Summit partners are alerting taxpayers to be wary of fake charities used by scammers to get money as well as sensitive financial and personal information from victims.

#GivingTuesday, the Tuesday following Black Friday, marks a special day as the holidays approach and people give to their favorite causes through charitable organizations. Scammers can take advantage of this by setting up fake charities to

trick unsuspecting donors into providing not only money, but also their sensitive

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Tool.

This is Day 2 of National Tax Security Awareness Week, now in its sixth year. The IRS, state tax agencies and the nation's tax industry – working together as the Security Summit – are providing tips this week to help protect people against identity theft as well as help safeguard sensitive tax information that criminals can use to try filing fake tax returns and obtaining refunds.

The special week includes special informational graphics and social media efforts on platforms including Twitter and Instagram through @IRSnews and #TaxSecurity.

The combination of the holiday shopping season, the upcoming tax season and the pandemic create additional opportunities for criminals to steal sensitive information. People should take extra care while shopping online or viewing emails and texts.

The Summit partners remind taxpayers to be on the lookout for scammers and identity thieves who set up fake organizations to take advantage of the public's generosity. Scammers take advantage of tragedies and disasters.

Scams requesting donations for disaster relief efforts are especially common over the phone. Taxpayers should always check out a charity before they donate, and they should not feel pressured to give immediately.

### Tips to help taxpayers avoid fake charity scams:

- **Individuals should never let any caller pressure them.** A legitimate charity will be happy to get a donation at any time, so there's no rush. Donors are encouraged to take time to do their own research.
- **Confirm the charity is real.** Potential donors should ask the fundraiser for the charity's exact name, website and mailing address so they can confirm it later.

Some dishonest telemarketers use names that sound like well-known charities to

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of a charity, they can use the IRS [Tax Exempt Organization Search](#) tool.

The IRS, state tax agencies, the private sector tax industry, including tax professionals, work in partnership as the Security Summit to help protect taxpayers from identity theft and refund fraud. This is part of a week-long series of tips to raise awareness about identity theft. See [IRS.gov/securitysummit](https://irs.gov/securitysummit) for more details.

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