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donors.

Nov. 29, 2022



Today is Giving Tuesday, and the IRS and its [Security Summit](#) partners warns taxpayers to be on alert for scammers using fake charities to commit fraud not just during the holiday season but year-round.

On day two of Nationwide Tax Security Awareness Week, the IRS and its Security Summit partners urge people to make sure their money goes only to legitimate charities. Being alert to potential scams will not only shield a taxpayer's money but

also help protect personal and financial data that can be used in tax-related identity

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Working together as the Security Summit, the IRS, state tax agencies and the nation's tax software and tax professional industries 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 to file fake tax returns and obtain refunds. This effort is part of National Tax Security Awareness Week, now in its seventh year.

Scammers often take advantage of people's generosity by setting up fake charities to trick unsuspecting donors into giving away not only money, but also their sensitive personal information. They can use the holiday season and other timely events, such as recent disasters, to try to reach out to people and lure them into a donation. Scams requesting donations for disaster relief efforts are especially common over the phone. However, scammers also use emails, text messages, websites and social media messages that mimic a legitimate charity to trick people into giving money or personal information.

The IRS and its Security Summit partners urge people to make sure their money goes only to legitimate charities. Being alert to potential scams will not only shield a taxpayer's money but also help protect personal and financial data that can be used in tax-related identity theft.

## Tips to avoiding fake charity scams:

- **Don't give in to pressure.** Scammers often use the technique of urgent need to pressure people into making an immediate payment. Legitimate charities are happy to get a donation at any time, there's no rush. Donors are encouraged to take time to do their own research. Don't forget that scammers may alter or "spoof" their caller ID to make it look like a real charity.
- **Be wary about how a donation is requested.** Taxpayers shouldn't work with charities that ask for donations by giving numbers from a gift card or by wiring

money. That's a scam. It's safest to pay by credit card or check—and only after

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itemize and don't take the standard deduction. However, for people itemizing to receive a deduction, taxpayers must donate to a qualified charity.

IRS • Taxes

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