

Donating safely on Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is a great time to show your gratitude by donating to help others. But you don't want to give money to a fake charity or scammer (any day of the week).

Before you donate this Giving Tuesday — and anytime you're asked to give to charity:

- **Research the cause or the organization.** [Search online](#) for the name of the organization or cause with words like “review,” “scam,” or “complaint.” See if others have had good or bad experiences with the charity. Check out what [charity watchdog groups](#) say about that organization.
- **Know that it's ok to ask questions.** If the request for a donation is over the phone, the caller should be able to answer [critical questions](#). For example, how much of your donation will go to the program you want to help? Is the caller raising funds for a charity or for a Political Action Committee (PAC)? (Donations to PACs are NOT tax deductible.)
- **Slow down.** You don't have to give over the phone, and anybody who pressures you might be someone you want to avoid giving to.
- **Know who's making the request.** Don't assume a request to donate is legitimate because a friend [posted it on social media](#). Your friend might not personally know the charity or how it spends money. When you do your own research, double-check the exact name of the organization. Scammers will pick names or use website addresses that sound very similar to legitimate well-known charities.

Donating on “Giving Tuesday”?

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

- 1 Do some research
- 2 Ask questions
- 3 Find out who's behind a request on social media

Learn more at ftc.gov/charity

This Giving Tuesday, and in this season of giving, consider starting with a plan for year-end donations. That way, you have time to do research, make your gifts, and tell anyone who asks that you've already given. Learn more at ftc.gov/charity.

If you see a charity scam, report it at ReportFraud.ftc.gov and to your [state charity regulator](#).