



# SCAM ALERT

## Scam: Charitable Donations Target: All Seniors

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) have expressed concern regarding recent scams associated with charitable donations. Countless swindlers pose as charitable organizations and try to obtain not only your donation, but often your personal information. Scam artists may offer inflated deduction values if you donate to their charity, this is a scam! Inflating charitable deduction values may result in a tax audit and associated fines.

The IRS and FTC suggest you do some research before you donate to ensure you are donating to a reputable cause and that your donation will benefit the group you intend. Be wary of telephone and email solicitors. Do not give them your personal information!

### Charitable donation warnings!

Consider these suggestions before you donate to charity:

- ◆ Never give out personal or financial information.
- ◆ Never send cash: you will have no record it was received or for your taxes.
- ◆ Donate to charities you know and trust.
- ◆ Be alert for charities that spring up overnight whenever there is a holiday or tragedy.
- ◆ Check out the charity with the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.

**If you think you may be a victim of a scam, contact San Bernardino County Adult Protective Services (APS) at 877-565-2020, or your local police department.**