



SCAM ALERT

Scam: Charitable Donations

Target: All Seniors

The nation's consumer protection agency, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has expressed concern regarding charity scams in light of the recent Hurricane Harvey disaster and as we near the most charitable giving time of the year. Countless swindlers pose as charities and obtain not only your donation, but often your personal information.

The FTC suggests 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!

Sham charity warnings from the Federal Trade Commission!

Consider these suggestions before you donate to charity this year:

- ◆ *Never* give out personal or financial information.
- ◆ *Never* send cash: you will have no record the money was received or for your taxes.
- ◆ *Donate* to charities you know and trust.
- ◆ *Be wary* of charities that spring up overnight whenever there is a tragedy.
- ◆ *Verify* 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.