



Charity Scams

Some scammers set up fake organizations, taking advantage of the public's generosity, especially after a tragedy or disaster. Follow these tips to help you detect common charity scam tactics:

- Check out the charity with the state **Attorney General** or the **Better Business Bureau** before you donate.
- Don't give in to high pressure tactics such as urging you to donate immediately.
- Don't assume that you can get a tax deduction for donating to an organization. Use the IRS's database of 501(c)3 organizations to find out if it has this status.
- Verify the name. Fake charities often choose names that are similar to well established charities or use keywords that elicit sympathy, such as "children," "cancer," or "disaster relief."
- Don't send cash. Pay with a check or credit card.

If you suspect charity fraud, report it to the **Federal Trade Commission**. Although the Do-Not-Call Registry doesn't apply to charities, you may ask an organization not to contact you again.

Ticket Scams

Tickets for popular concerts, plays, and sporting events can be expensive and sell out quickly. There are many ticket-selling scams that charge prices much higher than the face value of the tickets. Some scammers sell counterfeit tickets, with forged barcodes and logos of real ticket companies. Others sell duplicates of legitimate tickets to multiple buyers, often as electronic tickets.

Before you buy tickets from a third party seller:

- Try to buy from authorized brokers and third party sellers that can guarantee the validity of the ticket.
- Be especially careful of buying event tickets from online classified ads.
- Be wary of the online search results. The first ones may be paid ads that charge excessive fees, rather than a reputable seller.
- Check the actual web address for the resale website; some scammers create phony websites that closely resemble authentic ticket websites.
- Research the seller's name, e-mail address, and phone number, along with the words "fraud," "scams," and "fake tickets" to see if there are negative reviews.
- Find out if the seller guarantees the ticket.
- Get contact information for the seller, in case there is a problem with the ticket.
- Verify the section and seat number actually exists.
- Use a credit card to pay third party sellers. You may dispute the ticket purchase with your credit card company if problems occur.
- Check the date, time, and location printed on the ticket to make sure they match the date of the event.

Report ticket-related scams to the state consumer protection office.