

Charity Scam

Before donating to a charity, be sure the money is going to a good cause instead of a scammer.

Charity scams commonly pop up in response to natural disasters and current events such as the Great Smokey Mountains and Gatlinburg fires. Scammers will act like they are part of a legitimate charity and try to take advantage of your goodwill. Charity scams commonly come in the form of a phone call but can also include email, websites or social media, and text messaging. Signs of a scam include the caller refusing to disclose its mission, not telling how the donation will be used, and not providing proof if the contribution is tax deductible. Before making a donation, confirm that you're dealing with a reputable charity through the Tennessee Division of Charitable Solicitations, Fantasy Sports and Gaming charitable organization search. If you suspect you've being contacted by an illegitimate charity, report the call to your local police department, the FTC, and the Division of Consumer Affairs.

[Charitable Organization Search](#)

[Federal Trade Commission](#)

You can also report scams to the Better Business Bureau's [Scam Tracker](#) and check what scams are being reported in your area, the state, and across the country.