

Recognize, Refuse, Report!

**Call us
Monday–Friday,
9 a.m.–4 p.m.**

800-222-4444
Option 2



Before you donate to charities between now and the end of the year, do your research to make sure your hard-earned money is going to the intended cause. A 2021 AARP survey found that 38% of US adults say they have received a charity request that seemed fraudulent. The following are a few tips to help make sure that your donation is benefitting the intended cause:

- **Do your research.** Be wary if the charity fails to provide information about finances. Many reputable charities will provide the information up-front or if requested.
- Never give payment information to an **unsolicited caller**.
- **Give locally** to organizations you know do meaningful work in your community.
- Ask the solicitor **how much of the donation** will go to the charity and how much goes to the solicitor.
- Ask for a **registration number** of the solicitor and/or charity.
- Watch out for charities with **names that sound similar** to well-known organizations. These similar sounding names are intended to confuse those who give on a regular basis.
- **Do not pay in cash**, donate by credit card, when possible.
- Beware of **unsolicited emails or text messages**. Instead, go directly to the organization's known website or call to make donations.
- **Make a plan** for your yearly giving and contact those organizations directly when you are ready to give.

Before you give, visit www.checkthecharity.com to verify the charity is authorized to solicit donations in Colorado. Additional charity watchdog sites include www.charitynavigator.org and www.give.org. If you don't have access to the internet, call the AARP ElderWatch at 1-800-222-4444, option 2, to speak with a volunteer specialist who can help check the charity for you.

800-222-4444

Denver Metro Area

303-222-4444

www.aarpelderwatch.org