

## Scam Alert - Watch Out For Fake Charities During Holiday Season

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People tend to feel especially kindhearted and generous during the holiday season, which is why scammers take full advantage of this time of year. In order to not fall victim to a fake charity email or website, take these precautions:



- **Stay suspicious.** Look for telltale signs that an email or website may not be legitimate, such as low-resolution images, misspellings, poor grammar, or odd links. Also be aware that some fake charities may look real at first glance, taking on a name similar to a legitimate charity.
- **Think before you click.** Don't click on any links in emails or text messages from people you don't know, and if you come across a shortened URL, use a URL expander, such as LongURL.org, to see where the link is directed to before you click.
- **Do a background check on charities.** Before donating, research a charity thoroughly. You can enter the name of the charity at [www.give.org](http://www.give.org) to get information from the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance.
- **Beware of charity requests by email.** Most legitimate charities don't use email for their solicitations so there's a higher likelihood that an emailed request for donations is a scam. (Some legitimate charities, however, will email people who have donated to their organization before.)
- **Take control of your giving.** The best way to avoid charity scams is to decide in advance of the holiday season which charities you'll support and contact them yourself.

[Visit this link](#) for additional tips.