



Giving Tuesday Tips from DATCP and DFI

Release Date: November 30, 2020

DATCP Media Contact: Ti Gauger, Public Information Officer, (608) 224-5007, Ti.Gauger@Wisconsin.gov

DFI Media Contact: Jess Noelck, Communications Director, (608) 261-4504, jess.noelck@dfi.wisconsin.gov

MADISON – Now more than ever, charities are relying on the generosity of donors to meet the increased need for their services across our state. This Giving Tuesday, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) are offering tips to help you ensure that your donations will reach the organization of your choice.

“Scammers sometimes use phony websites and high-pressure pitches to gather funds for fake charities in an effort to steal your money and personal information,” said Lara Sutherlin, Administrator of DATCP’s Division of Trade and Consumer Protection. “There are many simple ways you can protect yourself from scammers and make sure you are donating to a legitimate charity.”

“With a little research and a few precautions, you can help ensure your donations will be used as intended and go to organizations that are genuinely serving others,” said Patti Epstein, Administrator of DFI’s Division of Corporate and Consumer Services.

If you receive a phone call, email, or text from someone asking for a donation:

- Do not make a payment over the phone, hang up and do additional research first.
- Do not click on links or attachments in emails, text messages, or social media posts, and do not share information with senders you do not know.
- Watch for imposter website links or social media profiles; check the spelling of the charity’s name on the account and website.
- If you don’t recognize the name or number, ask who is making the request
- Ask for the name, address, and phone number of the organization asking for the donation.
- Ask how your donation will be used and what percentage of your donation will be used for program services (also referred to as the organization's charitable purpose) rather than for administrative, management, or fundraising costs.
- Ask a caller to send written material about the organization.

Before donating to a charitable organization:

- Review DFI’s webpage on charitable organizations, which includes tips for donors and a database of state-registered charitable organizations: <http://www.wdfi.org/CharitableOrganizations/default.htm>
- Visit DATCP’s website for more information on protecting yourself from charitable donations scams: <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Publications/CharityRequests120.aspx>
- Research the charity at <https://www.charitynavigator.org/> or <http://give.org/>

For additional information and consumer protection resources, visit DATCP’s Consumer Protection Bureau at datcp.wi.gov. For information on charitable, fundraising counsels, and professional fundraisers visit DFI’s charitable organizations webpage at wdfi.org

###

Find more DATCP news in our [newsroom](#), on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Find more DFI news in our [newsroom](#), on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).