



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS REGULATION  
1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 69-1  
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920**

**Securities Division**

**TIPS FOR CHARITABLE HOLIDAY GIVING**

Being aware of the following Tips can help you make sure your contribution goes to make the holiday of the people and organizations you **want** to help a little bit merrier.

- Make sure you get detailed information about the charity: name, address, and telephone number.
- Ask if the charity or fundraiser is registered in Rhode Island. Most charities that solicit here must be registered. Some may be exempt from registering, for example, educational institutions or organizations which do not intend to solicit in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) during a fiscal year. A charities registration status may be confirmed through the Department of Business Regulation's searchable database: <https://licensing.ri.gov/Lookup/LicenseLookup.aspx>
- Ask how much of your donation will go to the program you want to support and how much will go to the administrative or fundraising costs.
- Never send cash. Charities will be pleased to receive a contribution by check. Always make the check payable to the organization and never the individual collecting the donation.
- Never wire money to someone claiming to be a charity. Fraudulent schemes often request donations to be wired because wiring money is like sending cash: once you send it, you can't get it back.
- Never provide your credit or check card number, bank account number or any personal information.
- Know the difference between "tax exempt" and "tax deductible." Tax exempt means the organization doesn't have to pay taxes. Tax deductible means you can deduct your contribution on your federal tax return.

If you seek further information about the organization or group that you wish to donate to please contact the Department of Business Regulation at 401-462-9527 or at <http://www.dbr.state.ri.us/> .

Maria D'Alessandro, Esq.,  
Deputy Director Securities, Commercial Licensing  
and Racing & Athletics

November 14, 2014