

The holidays are a time for giving. Before you give, do your research to make sure your hard-earned money is going to the intended cause. A 2018 AARP Foundation ElderWatch survey found that 42% of Coloradans 50+ believed they received a request from a fake or fraudulent charity in the last 12 months. Furthermore, 34% of those surveyed said they rarely or never research the organization or cause prior to making a donation. The following are a few tips for giving this holiday season and throughout the year:

## Recognize, Refuse, Report!

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

800-222-4444  
Option 2



Colorado Attorney  
General  
Cynthia Coffman

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

Before you give, visit [www.checkthecharity.com](http://www.checkthecharity.com) to verify the charity is authorized to solicit donations in Colorado. If you don't have access to the internet, call the AARP Foundation ElderWatch at 1-800-222-4444, option 2, to speak with an ElderWatch volunteer specialist who can help check the charity for you.

800-222-4444

Denver Metro Area  
303-222-4444

[www.aarpelderwatch.org](http://www.aarpelderwatch.org)