Please help...Charity Scams

The end of the year is a prime time for charitable donations, and scammers try to take advantage. The Bucks County Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force would like you to know that fake charities are among the most popular holiday scams; scammers either misuse the name of a genuine organization, or make up their own.

The following are some tools that you can use to determine if you are donating to a reputable organization:

• Look up the organization online and read what others are saying about it. Search the charity’s name with the terms “scam” or “complaint.”
• Check out the charity’s ratings with groups like the Wise Giving Alliance https://www.give.org
Charity Navigator https://www.charitynavigator.org
Charity Watch https://www.charities.org
Guide Star https://learn.guidestar.org
• Verify that the organization is registered with your state charity regulator. Most states require charities or their fundraisers to register before they can ask for donations. Visit Pennsylvania Department of State at https://www.dos.pa.gov/BusinessCharities/Charities/Pages/default.aspx.

OTHER SCAMS TO LOOK OUT FOR DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON:
• Santa fraud
• Travel deals
• ATM skimmers
• Weight loss
• Package delivery notice
• Suspicious social media giveaways

Monthly Fraud Alerts brought to you by:

Bucks County Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force
Bucks County District Attorney’s Office 215-348-6344
Bucks County Area Agency on Aging 267-880-5700
Bucks County Coroner’s Office 215-348-3852
Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) 1-800-675-6900
www.crimesaginstolderadultsbucks.org

A Woman’s Place (AWP) 1-800-220-8116
Bucks County Office of Consumer Protection 215-348-6060
Bucks County Register of Wills 215-348-6265

24 - HOUR HOTLINE: 1-800-490-8505