



Rhode Island Department of Revenue

Division of Taxation

ADV 2021-47
SECURITY SUMMIT

ADVISORY FOR TAXPAYERS AND TAX PROFESSIONALS
NOVEMBER 30, 2021

IRS issues warning about fake charities on #GivingTuesday

National Tax Security Awareness Week - Day Two

PROVIDENCE – The Rhode Division of Taxation, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and other partners in the Security Summit today warned taxpayers to be wary of fake charities that are looking to take your money and your sensitive financial and personal information.

Criminals create fake charities to get money as well as sensitive financial and personal information from victims.

Today, Giving Tuesday, is a special day each year. The approach of the holidays inspires generosity in many. When you give to your favorite cause, make sure that the charitable organization you are supporting is a legitimate charity. This is easy to do through a tool provided by the IRS: [the Tax Exempt Organization Search Tool](#).



To help taxpayers, the Security Summit shared 3 tips everyone should know to avoid fake charity scams:

- **Individuals should never let any caller pressure them.** A legitimate charity will be happy to get a donation at any time, so there's no rush. Donors are encouraged to take time to do their own research.
- **Confirm the charity is real.** Potential donors should ask the fundraiser for the charity's exact name, website, and mailing address so they can confirm it later. Some dishonest telemarketers use names that sound like well-known charities to confuse people.
- **Be careful about how a donation is made.** Taxpayers shouldn't work with charities that ask for donations by giving numbers from a gift card or by wiring money. That's a scam. It's safest to pay by credit card or check — and only after researching the charity.

Ensuring that you are giving to a real charity, and not a criminal protects you and guarantees that your donation supports a worthy cause. Additionally, taxpayers who donate money or goods to a charity may be able to claim a deduction on their federal tax return. Only donations to qualified charities - which can be verified using the above tool - enable taxpayers to receive a deduction.

About the Security Summit

The Security Summit consists of the IRS, state tax agencies, and the tax community -- including tax preparation firms, software developers, processors of payroll and tax financial products, tax professional organizations, and financial institutions. Partners in the Security Summit help protect taxpayers from identity theft and refund fraud. See <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/security-summit> for more details.

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days. For more information, contact the Division of Taxation at (401) 574-8829 or see <http://www.tax.ri.gov/contact/>.