

# Donating with Care *Checklist*



- Donate to reputable organizations** you are familiar with and those with a local presence.
- Be cautious about fundraising efforts initiated on social media** with no known ties to an established organization or local charity.
- Carefully evaluate the charity before making a donation.** Charity Navigator, GuideStar, IRS Select Check, the National Center for Charitable Statistics, and the BBB Wise Giving Alliance all provide information about established charities.
- Designate the disaster so** you can ensure your funds are going to disaster relief, rather than a general fund.
- Watch out for charities with names that sound similar** to well-known organizations.
- Avoid cash donations** if possible and pay by credit card or write a check directly to the charity. Do not make checks payable to individuals or send money via money transfer.
- Be especially wary of unsolicited emails that contain attachments** or links to websites, as they may download harmful malware onto your computer.
- Be cautious when donating** to a recently-formed charity.
- Contact the charity** to ask how your donation will be used for disaster relief.
- Use peer-to-peer fundraising platforms carefully.**
- Get permission and all the details before raising money on behalf of a charity or individual.**