



SCOTT W. STOREY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

For Immediate Release – August 31, 2005

Contact: Pam Russell
Public Information
303-271-6905

RE: DA Scott Storey Warns Consumers to beware of Charitable Giving
Fraud in the Wake of Hurricane Katrina

First Judicial District Attorney Scott Storey is warning consumers about the potential of charitable fraud in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. District Attorney Storey warns, “As in the aftermath of any disaster, people want to help. They want to donate their money where it will do the most good and help the most people. Most charities are honorable and legitimate but some are less reputable.”

Before giving to charities make certain you know who you are donating to, how the money will be spent, and determine if the charity is registered by the Secretary of State.

Charities are exempt from the Do Not Call List so you may find yourself inundated with telemarketing calls asking for donations. Before giving, do your homework:

- Learn about the charity; ask questions. What is the charity’s name, address, telephone number and purpose? Charities must provide this information to you. If a charity won’t provide the information or provides only vague answers you may want to consider supporting another charity. Verify the information with the Better Business Bureau

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and the Secretary of State. The Better Business Bureau can be reached at www.denverbbb.org or 303-758-2100. The Secretary of State can be reached at <http://www.sos.state.co.us> and go to their section called Licensing Center, or call 303-894- 2200 press 2.

- Some charities opt for familiar sounding names in an effort to generate credibility to their cause. Are you donating to the intended charity? Verify all information.
- Find out how your money will be spent. Determine what percentage will go to administrative fees and fundraising and how much goes to the charity. This information must be provided. Be wary if the telemarketer does not know or cannot ascertain this information.
- Determine if the donation is tax deductible? Be wary if the answer is no or the information is not available.
- Last but not least. Be wary if the charity requests cash, your credit card or social security number or wants to send a person directly to your home to obtain the money. Also, beware of those who use high pressure tactics.

For further information on this topic or other areas of consumer fraud/economic crime please contact the District Attorney's Office at 303-271-6931. Seniors may want to call the Seniors Hotline at 303-271-6980.

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