

District Attorney Marc Bennett  
18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District of Kansas



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**Wichita, Kansas** - In the wake of flooding in Louisiana and even homes affected here in Sedgwick County, the District Attorney's Office is reminding citizens that if they are considering making donations to charitable groups to be cautious of potential charity scams. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) suggests the following tips to "Make Sure Your Donations Count":

- **Donate to charities you know and trust** with a proven track record with dealing with disasters.
- **Be alert for charities that seem to have sprung up overnight in connection with current events.** Check out the charity with the [Better Business Bureau's \(BBB\) Wise Giving Alliance](#), [Charity Navigator](#), [Charity Watch](#), or [GuideStar](#).
- **Designate the disaster** so you can ensure your funds are going to disaster relief, rather than a general fund.
- **Never click on links or open attachments in e-mails unless you know who sent it.** You could unknowingly install [malware](#) on your computer.
- **Don't assume that charity messages posted on social media are legitimate.** Research the organization yourself.
- **When texting to donate, confirm the number with the source before you donate.** The charge will show up on your mobile phone bill, but donations are not immediate. It can take as long as 90 days for the charity to receive the funds.
- **Find out if the charity or fundraiser must be registered in your state** by contacting the [National Association of State Charity Officials](#). If they should be registered, but they're not, consider donating through another charity.

For More information call the District Attorney's Consumer Protection Division at 316-660-3653 or Contact the FTC [https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/helping-victims-flooding-louisiana-make-sure-your-donations-count?utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/helping-victims-flooding-louisiana-make-sure-your-donations-count?utm_source=govdelivery).

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