



THE INVESTIGATOR

Staying Safe Online this Holiday Season Part II: Charity Scams



About Us

Since 2000, BCSI Investigations Inc. has performed thousands of successful investigations. Our integrated team of investigators and support services ensure that the investigations are conducted in a timely fashion with leading edge techniques. BCSI Investigations Inc. is considered the platinum standard of the industry based on the quality and the wide spectrum of its services as well as the expertise of the investigators.

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The COVID-19 pandemic has made 2020 a tough year and many are entering the holiday season with a newfound sense of gratitude for our health, family, and friends. The idea of material items may not seem as meaningful as they once did and turning some of that money into a donation might seem like a better way to spend this year. Unfortunately, scammers will use any means necessary to take advantage of a good cause, often posing as charities for sick children to try and steal your donations. So, to make sure your funds are going to those who truly need it, we need to be prepared for what a charity scam can look like.

Via Email: A charity you have not donated to before contacts you via email to retrieve your financial information for a donation. Scammers will also send out email campaigns thanking you for a donation you have no recollection of making to have you “re-donate.” Please refer to our previous newsletter [“Staying Safe Online this Holiday Season Part One: Phishing Emails”](#) to learn how to spot and avoid this type of phishing scam.

Via Telephone: An individual calls you from a charity you have not heard from before or is using a name like a charity you have and is requesting a donation over the phone. In this case, it is best to end the call and look up this charity online to find out if it is legitimate or simply donate to a charity you know is legitimate such as Red Cross.

Door-to-Door: With COVID-19 we won’t be getting many strangers knocking, but pamphlets can still pop up in our mailboxes, so we need to remain vigilante as scammers will use every avenue possible.

Be an [informed](#) donor:

- Before making any charitable donation, gather as much information as possible on the organization.
- Visit their website for key information such as annual reports, contact information, hours of operation, list of board members, etc.
- Find out how much of your donation will go to charitable activity and overhead costs.



- Check the [List of charities](#) on the Canada Revenue Agency website to find out if a Canadian charity is registered. Only registered charities may issue official donation receipts.
- Charities are regulated at the provincial and territorial level. For more information, contact your provincial or territorial consumer affairs office.



If you have been a victim of a charitable donations' fraud, contact the Canadian Anti-fraud Call Centre to report the fraud and reach out to BCSI Investigations Inc. at 604-922-6572 or visit our website at www.picanada.ca.

Contact Us

With over 20 years of experience in investigations, BCSI Investigations Inc. is the platinum standard for private investigations. Contact us at 604-922-6572 or visit our website at www.picanada.ca to learn more.



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