



# Attorney General Bill Schuette's Senior Brigade

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## WINTER

**T**he change in weather conditions can create unique challenges. Prior to an emergency, it is very important to make arrangements and establish a personal support network made up of several individuals who can check in and give assistance if needed. This network may consist of friends, family members, relatives, personal attendants, and neighbors.

Review the following list to make sure you're ready for anything winter throws your way!

- \* Winterize your vehicle and keep the gas tank full.
- \* Have a two week supply of medication.
- \* Have a three day supply of food and water.
- \* Have an emergency kit: flashlight; portable radio; batteries; first aid kit; and cell phone charger.

Additional information provided by the American Red Cross is available by clicking [here](#).

## December is Charitable Giving Month!

The holiday season can be a time for giving. Solicitors may stand on street corners or in shopping malls, advertise in newspapers, or on the radio, send letters or emails, or call on the phone. With so many organizations requesting assistance, you may feel overwhelmed and confused about which charities are most deserving of your contributions.

### Before you make your donation:

**Know the Charity** - Charities have an obligation to provide detailed information to interested donors. Never give to a charity you know nothing about and do not feel pressured into contributing on the spot. Ask for written information and materials before you make a giving decision.

**Find Out Where Your Dollars Go** - Ask how much of your donation goes for general administration and fundraising expenses and how much is left for the program services you want to support. Once you have this information, you may make a more informed decision.

**Keep Records of Your Donation** - Do not give cash. Do not give your credit card number to a telephone solicitor or on an unsecured website. Be sure to keep a receipt for tax purposes.

**Beware of Charities Offering Gifts** - Direct mail solicitations are often accompanied by greeting cards, address stickers, calendars, key rings or other "gifts." Charities do this because it can increase donations. Do not feel that you have to make a contribution to keep these "gifts." It is against the law for a charity to demand payment for any unordered merchandise.

**Visit the Attorney General's website to see if the organization is registered.**

Remember – you can check an organization's status anytime at: [www.michigan.gov/agcharitysearch](http://www.michigan.gov/agcharitysearch).

### **NEW!** - Charities Frequently Asked Questions

The Charitable Trust Section of the Attorney General's website now lists answers to your most common charitable questions. Click [here](#) to learn more!



The Attorney General's Online Safety presentation covers how to avoid Internet scams and fraud. You'll also acquire many helpful online resource tips.

And, you'll learn where and how to report a problem or scam!



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Protecting Michigan Citizens  
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