



Attorney General Bill Schuette's **Senior Brigade**

A MICHIGAN SENIORS INITIATIVE



December 2011
Number 20



Winter is coming!

Is your home ready?

- * Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- * Have an emergency escape plan.
- * Fire extinguishers are a must!
- * Have good lighting inside and outside your home.
- * Make sure walking surfaces are in good condition.
- * Keep potential fire sources away from flammable material.
- * Have your furnace and chimneys inspected.
- * Install ground fault circuit interrupters in damp locations.

For more information visit the [Top Ten Safety Checklist](#) provided by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.



December is Charitable Giving Month



The holiday season is a time for giving. Your phone is ringing and your mailbox is filling with requests for donations. With so many different groups asking for your help, how do you decide who should receive your donation?

Ask these questions:

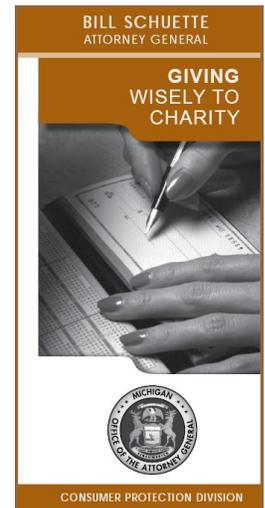
1. What percent of donations goes toward the charitable purpose?
2. What percent of donations goes toward fundraising costs?
3. Is the charity currently registered to solicit donations in Michigan?
4. Is my donation tax deductible?
5. Is the caller paid by a fundraising company?

Protect Yourself and Your \$\$\$

The Giving Wisely to Charity brochure is an excellent resource for all your charitable giving questions.

If you are seeking financial information on a registered charity, it is available at www.michigan.gov/agcharitysearch.

Need additional information or wish to file a complaint? The Charitable Trust Section is available to answer all your questions at (517) 373-1152.



Stay Informed!



The Michigan Senior Brigade Events Calendar includes events for seniors around Michigan.

We offer a variety of seminars to fit your needs.

- * Home Repair & Equity Scams
- * Identity Theft
- * Investment Fraud
- * Online Safety
- * Phone & Mail Scams
- * Residential Care Facilities

Sign up today!