

# North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State

## NEWS

**October 19, 2020**

For Immediate Release

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**Elaine F. Marshall**  
**Secretary of State**

### NC Secretary of State's Office Kicks Off Annual Charity Fraud Awareness Week

RALEIGH – NC Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall is joining state charities regulators across the country and the Federal Trade Commission to announce the third annual International Charity Fraud Awareness Week (ICFAW), a coordinated international campaign to help charities and consumers avoid fraud and promote wise giving.

Charity Fraud Awareness Week (October 19-23) emphasizes the importance of nonprofits maintaining strong cybersecurity policies to protect sensitive data, and offers North Carolina's giving public tips for wise giving.

“Charities are scrambling to keep up with needs amidst the dual medical and economic crises spawned by the COVID pandemic” said Secretary Marshall on Monday. “It’s never been more important that each dollar we give do the maximum amount of good for the countless people who need help right now. Fake charity scams and fraudsters that target legitimate charities all divert crucial resources from those in need.”

Secretary Marshall urges the giving public to research charities registered with the Secretary of State's Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division at [sosnc.gov](http://sosnc.gov) and download the [Smart Donor Checklist](#) for a list of suggested questions to ask any charity that calls for donations.

Nonprofits need to be sure they have robust lines of defense against cyberattack as criminals look to exploit any weakness in their IT systems. “Like most organizations where employees are teleworking to protect public health, nonprofits have to take special precautions to be sure donors' financial information and other data stays secure,” said Secretary Marshall.

The NC Secretary of State's Office will be sharing tips this week on social media. Follow the discussion at #CharityFraudOut2020.

If you believe that you have been contacted by a fake charity, contact the Secretary of State's Office or local authorities. You can reach our Charitable Solicitation Licensing Division at 1-888-830-4989 or file a complaint [online](#).