

## Reduce Calls From Telemarketers

A national do-not-call registry was created by federal legislation to reduce the number of telemarketing calls to consumers.

Michigan consumers who have access to an email address can sign up, at no cost, to the national registry online at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov). Consumers can also register for the national registry toll-free by phone at 1-888-382-1222.

## For Additional Information

Consumers can check out charities, review publications, and report suspicious activity by contacting the Department of Attorney General at the following address:

Department of Attorney General  
Charitable Trust Section  
P.O. Box 30214  
Lansing, Michigan 48909  
Phone: 1-800-769-4515

A variety of pertinent information is also available on the Michigan Department of Attorney General website. Visit their site at: <http://www.michigan.gov/ag>

## The Canton Police Department Does Not Endorse Phone Solicitations



Charitable giving is a process which involves knowing your rights and responsibilities as a donor. Help is available through the Canton Police Department. For questions about police related charities or suspicion of fraud call the Canton Police Department at 734/394-5400.

## Department of Public Safety

1150 S. Canton Center Rd.  
Canton, Michigan 48188-1699

Non-Emergency  
394-5400

Public Safety Administration  
394-5445

Records Bureau  
394-5410

### Fire Division

Fire Department Administration  
394-5455

Fire Prevention  
394-5436

### Police Division

Police Administration  
394-5445

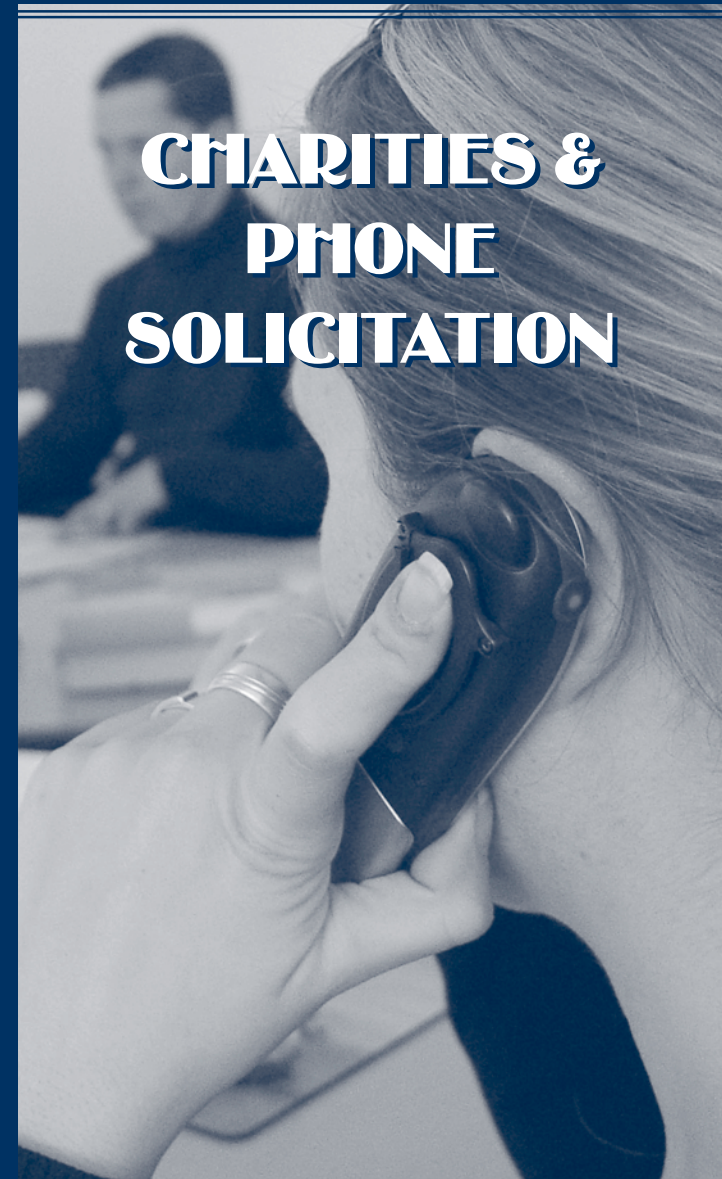
Crime Prevention  
394-5424

Detective Bureau  
394-5420

Patrol  
394-5401

Training  
394-5451

**For Emergencies  
Dial 911**



An Informational Guide Brought To You By The  
Canton Department Of Public Safety



## Phone Solicitation

Phone solicitation is often used by legitimate companies and non-profit organizations to sell goods, services, and/or solicit for donations. However, many dishonest companies use the telephone as a way to misrepresent products and fraudulently solicit funds from consumers.

This brochure is being brought to you to provide information and suggestions that will help you to recognize dishonest phone solicitors and also to help you be a generous and wise donor.

## Michigan Charities

In Michigan, there are more than three-thousand licensed charities that are able to solicit donations from you. During the past year these charities took in millions of dollars in donations.

Many charities use your money wisely, however others may not deserve your generosity. Legitimate charities will provide information on the activities of the organization as well as how much of the donation is actually being used for program services. Asking questions will hopefully ensure that your money will go to support the worthwhile services that many charities provide.

While small volunteer organizations are exempt from licensure, most charities, professional fundraisers, and public safety groups who solicit in Michigan must be licensed or registered with the Department of Attorney General.

All licensed organizations are issued a Michigan Charitable Solicitation (MICS) number. The solicitor should be able to provide you with this number or explain why the charity is exempt.

## Public Safety Groups

Public safety groups are often social groups or unions whose members consist of current or former firefighters and law enforcement personnel.

Even though many public safety groups are not charitable, you may still wish to support these organizations whose members support your community. You should contact the public safety organizations in your area directly to find out how to do so. Most soliciting public safety organizations are not required to file with the Department of Attorney General.



### REMEMBER:

Refusing to donate to these groups will not affect access to public safety services in the Canton community

## Before You Donate

If you wish to contribute to an organization you should always do the following:

### Always Ask Questions

If you're not 100% sure you want to donate, get more information before you pledge or contribute. It's easier to obtain additional information when you know the charity's address, phone number, and MICS number.

### Take Time To Think

Taking the time to think before you decide to donate is the best way to guarantee that your charity dollars will be spent in the manner you expect. Don't just give to charity - give wisely.

## Request Written Information

Don't make a pledge over the phone unless you have all the facts.



## Facts You Should Know

- In order for your donation to be tax deductible, the receiving organization must meet specific IRS requirements; Ask the solicitor if your donation will be tax deductible.
- If a charitable organization mails you a gift, you are not obligated to return the gift or donate to the organization.
- Some organizations and groups use names that are similar to well known charities as a strategy to receive more donations.
- When you donate, your name may be placed on mailing lists that are issued to other charities. You have a right to have your name removed from these lists upon request.
- You can ask telemarketers to put you on their "do-not-call" list.

## Beware Of The Following

- Solicitors who use high pressure tactics or ask you to commit immediately
- "Cash only" requests
- Solicitors who refuse to provide you with their name, mailing address, telephone number, and/or MICS number

Source: Michigan Department of Attorney General