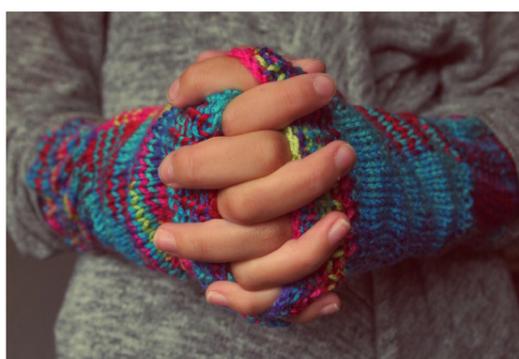


Give your donation to the right hands this Christmas



#therighthands



Don't be fooled! Follow these tips so your donation ends up in the right hands; the hands of genuine collectors, and ultimately the hands of those who most need help.

The wrong hands

1. Charity name not listed on the register of charities*, or listed as 'Removed'
2. Collector can't display a current licence to collect in the area
3. Collector has no charity ID or name badge
4. The collection tin is unsealed or makeshift, eg an ice cream container
5. The collector is unable to give details about the charity's role and stated aims
6. Fundraising materials don't feature the charity's name, registration number and a landline phone number
7. When asking for donations online, there is no padlock symbol in the URL bar (to indicate a secure transaction)
8. An unsolicited email, often with spelling mistakes, asks for bank details, personal information or account login details, or links straight to a transaction page
9. Collection bags for clothes and household goods are poorly branded and don't contain registration information

*charities with an income of less than £5,000 per year do not have to be registered with the Charity Commission

The right hands

1. Charity listed as 'Registered' on the register of charities (Charity Commission website)
2. Collector has permission from local authority, Police or private landowner (eg in malls)
3. Collector wears a formal ID badge
4. The collection tin is sealed
5. The collector knows what the charity does and can give examples of its work
6. Any fundraising materials have clear contact and registration details, including a landline phone number (be wary of mobile numbers)
7. Online donations are processed through secure and verified sites, with the padlock symbol in the URL bar
8. Only registered email subscribers are contacted, or encouraged to type the URL in directly or use a search engine to access the charity's website
9. Collection bags include the charity's registration information, contact details and information about the charity's work

Don't be pressured to give to a collector immediately. If you're in any doubt, donate directly to the charity through other channels. If, after reading this information, you suspect that a collection or appeal is not legitimate, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or see www.actionfraud.police.uk. If you suspect you've donated money to a bogus charity online, please contact your bank immediately.

Find our safer giving tips at www.gov.uk/charity-commission