

# CONSUMER ALERT TELEMARKETING SCAMS



Santa Clara County  
Office of the District Attorney  
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San Jose, CA 95110

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Office of the District Attorney  
Elder and Dependent Adult Financial Abuse Unit  
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Santa Clara County  
Office of the District Attorney  
Jeff Rosen



# CONSUMER ALERT TELEMARKETING SCAMS



Prepared by the Santa Clara County  
Office of the District Attorney  
Elder and Dependent Adult Financial Abuse Unit

**The Santa Clara County District Attorney offers a consumer alert for telemarketing fraud, occurring in the county and throughout the state. Unscrupulous telemarketers may call claiming an affiliation with a charity when in truth the solicitation is solely for the caller's personal gain. The following consumer tips may protect you from victimization:**

- Take your time in making any decision to donate money.
- Contact the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts at 916-445-2021 or [www.caag.state.ca.us/charities.php](http://www.caag.state.ca.us/charities.php) for charity registration, financial reports or to report suspected fraud.
- Contact your area **Better Business Bureau** or visit [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) "charitable giving," for information about good charitable organization practices.
- Ask a telemarketer to send you an annual report which describes the charity's mission, fundraising practices, and contact information for officers or

directors. Legitimate charities will allow you time to make a thoughtful decision

- Ask a telemarketer what contribution percentage is allocated for fundraising expenses. Most legitimate charities incur reasonable expenses.
- If the solicitation is for a donation so that needy or disadvantaged persons may attend an event, ask how the tickets will be distributed and what transportation arrangements are for the targeted audience.
- If a telemarketer intimidates you or fails to answer questions to your satisfaction, ask to be placed on a "Do Not Call" list and terminate the call.
- If you decide to contribute, mail a check, do not provide credit card information. Then send your check directly to your chosen charity; commercial fundraisers often receive a substantial percentage of donations before the remainder goes to your designated charity.

## WHO TO CALL FOR HELP!

Police Emergency 911

### Local Law Enforcement Agencies:

Calif. Highway Patrol	(408) 467-5400
Campbell Police	(408) 866-2121
Gilroy Police	(408) 846-0350
Los Altos Police	(650) 947-2770
Los Gatos Police	(408) 354-8600
Milpitas Police	(408) 586-2400
Morgan Hill Police	(408) 779-2101
Mt. View Police	(650) 903-6395
Palo Alto Police	(650) 329-2406
San Jose Police	(408) 277-8900
Sheriffs Office	(408) 299-2311
Santa Clara Police	(408) 615-5580
Sunnyvale Public Safety	(408) 730-7110

### District Attorney's Office:

Elder and Dep. Adult Financial Abuse Unit  
toll-free 1-855-DA-Elder  
(1-855-323-5337)

Investigations (408) 792-2888

Consumer Protection / Mediation Unit  
(408) 792-2880