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Beware! Fraudulent Charity Organizations Likely to Be On the Rise After Aurora Colorado Tragedy Sakke Artists Prey on Emotional Compassion



Guam- The recent mass tragedy that took place in Aurora, Colorado less than a week ago left 12 people dead and 58 wounded. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families during this time.

Compassion is a strong emotion that tugs on the strings of our hearts and many of us want to help in any way we can. Charitable organizations have started coming together to provide financial support for the victims and their families.

For scam artists, this is the perfect setup. Attorney General Leonardo M. Rapadas warns the community to use caution when choosing a charitable organization.

“Sakke artists will utilize the emotional aspect of tragedies such as this to con people into thinking they are donating for a good cause. Instead, it falls into the hands of individuals who make a living out of swindling our hard earned money,” cautions AG Rapadas.

When making contributions, here are some general tips and guidelines to follow:

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- Reputable organizations do not usually solicit donations from individual consumers via email and oftentimes, unsolicited email messages asking for charitable contributions are fraudulent.
- Beware of organizations that use meaningless terms to suggest they are tax-exempt charities; not every not-for-profit organization needs a tax identification number.
- Be extremely wary of phone calls from people asking to donate to the cause, oftentimes they want personal and bank account information to either utilize your personal information for another scam or empty your bank account.

The Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA) was asked by the Aurora Police Department to coordinate monetary donations for the victims of the Aurora mass tragedy. The OAG is a member of National Association of VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) Assistance Administrators, who notified us of COVA's efforts. To learn more information, go to: <https://www.givingfirst.org/cova>

To report fraudulent organizations or phone calls, please call our Consumer Claims Unit Advocate, Bernie Alvarez at 475-3324 ext. 3340 or email: Balvarez@guamattorneygeneral.com.

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