

FRAUD ALERT!

Reducing Charity Junk Mail

Does it seem like every charity in the world is sending you a solicitation? Although most of us want to be compassionate and generous with charitable giving, we also have the right to decide to whom we will give and to reduce charity junk mail.

Below are some tips to help you reduce your charity junk mail and reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of a charity scam.

- ✓ Make an annual charitable giving budget and list – and stick to it! Keep your list to a manageable number of charities.
- ✓ Ask for reports that rate charities and tell you how your donations will be used at these national charity watchdog Web sites: www.give.org and www.charitynavigator.org.

To reduce charity junk mail:

- 1) Call or Write to the development directors of charities soliciting you and ask that you want to *opt out* of list sharing AND you want no further contact.
- 2) Register to have your name removed from mailing lists. One is a free service called the National Do Not Mail List, offered by DirectMail.com.
- 3) Don't mark your junk mail "return to sender" or return it in the postage-paid envelope. The fact that you responded, even in a negative way usually means your name and address will be used again by the company that purchased it. Instead, contact the company that mailed the items to you and ask to be removed from their list. If there is no phone number on the junk mail, you may find the company on the Internet. If no phone number is supplied, make your request via e-mail.

**For more information or to report a scam in Bucks County-
contact any one of the Task Force members:**

**BUCKS COUNTY CRIMES AGAINST OLDER ADULTS TASK FORCE-
FIGHTING ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION OF OLDER ADULTS IN BUCKS COUNTY**

WWW.CRIMESAGAINSTOLDERADULTSBUCKS.ORG

1-800-490-8505

Bucks County District Attorney's Office

215-348-6344

Bucks County Consumer Protection

215-348-6060

Bucks County Register of Wills

215-348-6265

Bucks County Area Agency on Aging

215-348-0510

Network of Victim Assistance

1-800-675-6900

Bucks County Coroner

215-348-3852