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RE: Important Changes to Ohio Charitable Registration

Dear Non-Profit Leader:

Big changes are coming to the way Ohio charities and non-profits must register with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and we need your assistance in making sure Ohio's non-profit community is ready and can continue serving Ohio families.

Most charities in Ohio now will be required by recent statutory and rule changes to register on-line. Because your organization can distribute information about these changes to the non-profits they affect, I'm asking you to help publicize the changes in your newsletters, email messages, or web pages.

The charitable registration process is a significant regulatory tool. As part of providing oversight to our state's non-profit community, I believe it's important to direct scarce resources to charities that operate under honest and transparent governance. Too often, sham charities and bogus solicitations exploit the generosity of Ohioans, and we've recently taken action against several of them.

Enclosed is a copy of the materials that charities will receive regarding the changes. The new system is straightforward, intuitive, and enables us to provide confirmations and deadline reminders. In addition, both charities and the public will be able to search our web page for information about filing compliance and other organizational details. The system also has provisions for representatives who file on behalf of multiple organizations.

We recommend that multiple volunteers associated with each charity acquire an account so reminders and notices will be shared among many people. This should reduce the possibility of filing deadlines being overlooked during leadership transitions.

I invite you to examine the various resources available on the Ohio Attorney General's website, including the user guide and tool tip guide which answer questions you may have about the new registration system. We offer a quarterly *Nonprofit News*, a *Nonprofit Handbook*, plus webinars and brochures to assist board members with fulfilling their legal responsibilities to Ohio's charities. You can find these and other materials at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CharitableRegistration.

Thank you for your interest in maintaining the vitality of Ohio's non-profit sector and protecting our state's citizens from fraudulent solicitations. I appreciate your assistance in publicizing the changes in Ohio's new charitable registration system.

Very respectfully yours,



Mike DeWine

Ohio Attorney General



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Charity ABC
Charity Address
Charity City, State Zip

RE: Important Changes to Ohio Charitable Registration

Dear Non-Profit Organization:

Big changes are coming to the way Ohio charities and non-profits must register with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and our Charitable Law Section is here to make sure your organization is prepared and can continue serving the needs of Ohio families.

Numerous recent revisions to the statutory language and rules will change the registration process. Soon all filings will be completed on-line through a new charitable registration system that will eliminate paper forms and more accurately determine applicable statutes and required fees. We have also adopted changes in state filing requirements to make them more consistent with IRS filing requirements.

The new system provides email confirmations on filings and reminders of upcoming deadlines. Multiple representatives from the same organization may register to receive updates and reminders, thereby helping to avoid oversights and late filings during leadership transitions.

The Ohio Attorney General's website will be available to help potential donors avoid sham charities and fraudulent solicitations, confirm an organization is properly registered and compliant with charitable regulations, and decide wisely where to direct their donations.

Mandatory on-line filing is effective immediately for all non-profits with fiscal years ending after November 30, 2011. Non-profits that have not yet filed for fiscal periods ending prior to November 30 should also use the new on-line charitable registration system. Soon paper forms will no longer be available on our website; questions regarding use of the on-line system for earlier fiscal filing periods should be directed to 1-800-282-0515.

The Ohio Attorney General Office's website contains a user's guide and tool tips which answers questions you may have about the new registration system (www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/CharitableRegistration).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very respectfully yours,



Mike DeWine

Ohio Attorney General