



NAVAJO NATION DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NAVAJO NATION ATTORNEY GENERAL CAUTIONS PUBLIC ABOUT POTENTIAL COVID-19 RELATED SCAMS AND FRAUD

WINDOW ROCK, NAVAJO NATION— Navajo Nation Attorney General Doreen N. McPaul cautions the public to be alert and aware of potential COVID-19 related scams and fraud. The nationwide outpouring of support for areas severely affected by COVID-19 is heartwarming and greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, tribal, federal, and state law enforcement agencies across the country continue to receive reports of scammers looking to deceive the public and take advantage of the ongoing pandemic for personal gain. Some of the most common schemes are related to the fraudulent solicitation of monetary donations for individuals, groups, and areas severely affected by COVID-19, and fraudulent schemes related to COVID-19 PPE, antibody testing, and vaccines.

CHAIRTY FUNDRAISING / DONATIONS

Charitable nonprofits can play a vital role in the overall response to emergencies and disasters. Charitable nonprofits rely on the generosity of public and private donors, and donors rely on systems of accountability associated with the regulation of charitable nonprofits. When scammers seek to deceive public and private donors both the targeted victim and legitimate nonprofits are harmed. Conducting research is one of the best tools you have to help protect yourself from scams and fraud.

- Consider whether the cause you are considering is a recognized charitable organization or a cause of an individual or individuals. Websites and other fundraising efforts that fail to disclose basic information about the cause and who is involved should raise a red flag.
- Many scammers using phishing emails, phone calls and text messages will seek to pressure people into making donations or decisions immediately. Government agencies and legitimate nonprofits should be okay with you first conducting research so you can make a well-informed decision.
- If the cause you are considering is a charitable organization, ask basic questions about the organization, its mission, its leadership, its track record, and its financials to help you to make a well-informed decision.

- If the cause you are considering is a charitable organization; the Better Business Bureau (BBB) Wise Business Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator, CharityWatch and GuideStar are organizations that offer reports and ratings about how charitable organizations spend donations and how they conduct business. Donors are encouraged look up these reports and ratings to help make a well-informed decision.

DONATING DIRECTLY TO THE NAVAJO NATION

The Navajo Nation has and continues to receive inquiries from the public about how to donate directly to the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation COVID-19 Fund has been established to help the Navajo Nation respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the only official COVID-19 fundraising and donation effort of the Navajo Nation government.



- For more information or to make a monetary donation, please visit www.navajo.fund or donate to the Official Navajo Nation COVID-19 Relief Fund through GoFundMe at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/official-navajo-nation-covid19-relief-fund>
- For official information on COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation, visit: <https://www.ndoh.navajonnsn.gov/COVID-19>. The Official Navajo Nation government website is: <https://www.navajonnsn.gov>

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS

If you are aware of or suspect any scams, fraud, or other attempts to take advantage of the Navajo Nation, Navajo Nation citizens, or the general public related to the Navajo Nation, please report those concerns in writing to the Navajo Nation Department of Justice at general@nndoj.org or P.O. Box 2010, Window Rock, AZ 86515.

Every complaint received helps to provide valuable insight into public concerns and assists with identifying new trends and problems. One of the most effective tools the Navajo Nation has in staying up to speed is active public participation.

In addition to reporting actual or suspected scams and fraud to the Navajo Nation, the Federal Government and State governments also have avenues to report concerns.

- Locate information on individual States' Consumer Protection Office here: <https://www.usa.gov/state-consumer>
- Report online fraud to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center here: <https://www.ic3.gov/>
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) here: <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/>
- Report suspected disaster related fraud to the National Center for Disaster Fraud here: <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud>