

A donor bill of rights

Philanthropy is based on voluntary action for the common good. It is a tradition of giving and sharing that is primary to the quality of life. To ensure that philanthropy merits the respect and trust of the general public and that donors, and prospective donors, can have full confidence in the nonprofit organisations and causes they are asked to support, we declare that all donors have the following rights.

I

To be informed of the organisation's mission, of the way the organisation intends to use donated resources and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.

II

To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organisation's governing board; to expect the board to exercise prudent judgement in its stewardship responsibilities.

III

To have access to the organisation's most recent financial statements.

IV

To be assured that their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.

V

To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.

VI

To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.

VII

To expect that all relationships with individuals representing organisations of interest to the donor will be professional in nature.

VIII

To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organisation, or hired solicitors (someone paid to ask for a donation).

IX

To have the opportunity for their names to be deleted from mailing lists that an organisation may intend to share.

X

To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.

Developed by: Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP), Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), Giving Institute: leading consultants to nonprofits.

Originally endorsed by (independent sector): National Development Conference (NCDC), National Committee on Planned Giving (NCPG), Council for Resource Development (CRD), United Way of American.
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