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★ OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL ★

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike".

Mike DeWine

Ohio Attorney General