

- **Maryland Secretary of State (SOS) Charitable Organization Registration**

Under the Maryland Solicitations Act, Title 6, Business Regulation Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, a charitable organization soliciting in Maryland generally must file documents with the Office of the Secretary of State. Registration is required prior to the commencement of solicitations. Solicitations take on many forms including, but not limited to, phone calls, texts, social media, emails, direct mail, and can oftentimes be in person at your local grocery store or retail establishment.

1. Initial

- Registration

An

organization which received in the most recently completed fiscal year, more than \$25,000 in direct support from the public, private foundations, and corporate grants and gross revenue from special fundraising events must submit the documents described in the Initial Registration Instructions and form [Registration, Frequently Asked Questions & Checklist](#). These documents include information about the finances and administration of the organization.

If an organization received, in the most recently completed fiscal year, less than \$25,000 in direct support from the public, private foundations, and corporate grants and gross revenue from special fundraising events, the [Exempt Organization Fund-Raising Notice](#) is the only form required. There is no registration fee for organizations receiving less than \$25,000 in contributions. If, however, the organization raised less than \$25,000 and used a Professional Solicitor definition (Business Regulation Article, §6-101(i)), the organization must submit the documents listed in the Initial [Registration Instructions and Form](#).

2. Annual Update of

- Registration

Because the

Maryland Solicitations Act requires that certain information be filed annually, an organization which has previously submitted the documents listed in the Initial Registration Instructions & form must submit information annually to update its registration. An organization must submit the information listed in the [Annual Update](#) of Registration Instructions and form within six months of the end of the organization's fiscal year.

Definition of Charitable Contribution

§ 6-101. Definitions

(c) Charitable contribution. — (1) “Charitable contribution” means a contribution made on a representation that it will be used for a charitable purpose. (2) “Charitable contribution” includes the payment, transfer, or enforceable pledge of financial help, including money, credit, property, or services. **(3) "Charitable contribution" does not include: (i) an unsolicited gift; (ii) a government grant or government money; (iii) membership assessments, dues, or fines;** (iv) a payment for property sold or services rendered by a charitable organization, unless the property is sold or the services are rendered in connection with a charitable solicitation; and (v) a public safety contribution as defined in subsection (j) of this section.

If you engage in soliciting you can apply online here: [SOS Charities Initial Registration Form | Maryland OneStop \(md.gov\)](#)

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