



ICSA Statement on Door-To-Door Collections

Over the past year there has been a significant increase in the number of leaflets, bags and stickers dropped through people's letterboxes soliciting donations of clothes shoes household linen etc. by commercial rag merchants.

There has been concern raised by the general public and the media around the legitimacy of these door to door collections. Most donors are keen to see that their donation goes in support of a legitimate charity. The public are being given the impression that the sale of stock by the commercial rag merchants goes to charity when in many cases it does not.

If you want to support a good charitable cause there are a number of details to look for:

1. Does the bag or leaflet have an **address and landline** (not mobile) number printed on it?
2. Is the **Irish Charity Shops Association logo** (a coat hanger with ICSA inside it – see above) on the bag/leaflet?
3. Do you **recognise the Charity name**? Sometimes leaflets are printed so that they appear to be connected to a well known charity.

If you are still not sure that the bag or label is from a recognised charity you can either:

- Bring your donation to a charity shop near you
- Wait until a charity that you recognize comes around
- Contact the charity you wish to support.

Legitimate charities that operate charity shops in Ireland rely heavily on the public for donations of clothes, books, shoes, bric-a-brac and household linen. These goods are then converted into revenue and used to fund the often much needed services provided by the charities.

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