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## Category: Alaska & Hawaii Car Donations

Subcategory: Alaska & Hawaii Car Donations

**Tip: The Hawaii Motor Vehicle Department can provide additional information about transferring title and releasing liability when donating a car in Hawaii.**

Donate a Car for Charity operates in Hawaii, as well as in the continental US. There are vehicle pick-ups in Ewa Beach, Kaaawa, Hilo, Wahiawa, Honolulu, Kauai, Maui, Pearl City, Kahului, and Wahiawa. In most cases, you must provide a clear title when you donate a vehicle. Please consult the Hawaii Motor Vehicle Department to determine procedures if you do not have a title. The HMVD will also be able to provide you with more information on how and when to release the liability of your donated vehicle.

## Category: Boat Donation

Subcategory: Boat Donation

**Tip: New Tax Laws Limit Write-Offs for Boat Donations**

New tax laws require people who donate a boat to value their tax deduction at the amount the charity gets selling the vessel. In most cases, charities sell donated vehicles -- boats, cars, trucks and campers and the proceeds go to the charity's causes. But the new tax law can be challenging for boat owners, who may get substantially less than the market value of their boat when they donate it to charity. However, there is an exception to the 2005 IRS rule: If the charity keeps the boat donations for "significant intervening use" in the organization's work, the donor can claim the fair market value of the vessel at tax time. These charities are likely to be marine-based groups that do research and education on the water. Donors with expensive boats may want to consider seeking out charities that will use the vessels in their work.

## Category: California Car Donations

Subcategory: California Car Donation

**Tip: Car donation by city: Los Angeles, CA**

Donate Car For Charity Tip: Los Angeles car donations are subject to the same policies and procedures as all car donations in California. Donate a Car for Charity, part of the Family Care Foundation (FCF), an IRS-registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, offers vehicle pick-up in the Los Angeles area, as well as throughout California and nationwide.

**Tip: Car donation by city: Orange County**

Car donations in Orange County are subject to the same policies and procedures as car donations throughout California. Donate a Car for Charity, part of the Family Care Foundation (FCF), an IRS-registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization headquartered just nearby, offers free, quick and easy vehicle pick-up throughout Orange County, including Anaheim, La Habra, Brea, Yorba Linda, Fullerton, Placentia, Buena Park, Villa Park, Anaheim Hills, La Palma, Orange, Cypress, Stanton, Silverado Canyon, Garden Grove, Trabuco Canyon, Los Alamitos, Westminster, Santa Ana, Tustin, Foothill Ranch, Portola Hills, Rancho Santa Margarita, Seal Beach, Fountain Valley, Irvine, Costa Mesa, Lake Forest, El Toro, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, Laguna Beach, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, Balboa, Corona del Mar, Laguna Niguel, Aliso Viejo and Mission Viejo.

**Tip: Giving to the Red Cross of Los Angeles**

The American Red Cross is known for its charitable works, from providing disaster victims with life-saving blood transfusions to setting up shelters for the homeless after hurricane and floods. The American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles uses vehicle donations as a way to raise funds for its charitable works, and you can contact the American Red Cross, at 866-7 RED CROSS. Or visit its Web site: [www.charityfundingservices.com](http://www.charityfundingservices.com). The Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles tries to make it easy for people to donate their cars. The charity will send a representative to pick up the vehicle donation for free and the donor can expect a tax receipt in the mail after the vehicle is sold.

**Tip: In California, you need to file a specific “Release of Liability” form when donating a vehicle.**

Donate Car For Charity Tip: Car donation facilities exist throughout California. Vehicles donated in California to a non-profit classified with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization are deductible from your federal income taxes. In most cases, the state of California requires that the donor present the charity or donation program with the title of the vehicle. If you do not have title papers, you can still complete a California car donation by filling out the application for duplicate title form and by requesting a Registration History printout from the DMV. Visit the California Department of Motor Vehicles web site to obtain the necessary forms before donating a vehicle. The California DMV requires you as a donor to mail in the "Release of Liability" form that is attached to your title on the day that the car donation is processed and the vehicle is picked up by the donation service's agent. If you do not have a "Release of Liability" form, you can download one from the California DMV web site.

**Category: Car Donation**

### Subcategory: Car Donation Steps

**Tip: Step 3: Complete an online donation form, or call the charity with your car donation.**

When donating vehicles for charity, complete an online donation form or call the car donation charity. Once the charity has received your form and reviewed your information, you will be contacted to arrange a time to have the charity pick up your car and give you your tax receipt for car donations made. Donating cars to charity is an easy process.

**Tip: Step 4: Acquire the title, preparer the vehicle and arrange for pick up.**

Once the charity has reviewed your information, they will arrange to pick up your donated vehicle. Make sure you have the title in hand, or they cannot accept the donation. Before they arrive, remove all personal possessions from the vehicle. Since most pick-ups are done through a local towing company, make sure that you pass any special instructions on to the charity ahead of time.

### Subcategory: Car Donation Tips

**Tip: Car donations to an eligible organization are tax deductible up to the fair market value of the car at the time of the donation.**

Donating cars to charity is a terrific way of helping others while also saving on your taxes. Your car donation is tax deductible, up to the full fair market value of the vehicle (if the charity keeps the vehicle) or up to the value for which the charity sells the vehicle, provided it is made to a legitimate 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Be sure to check that the organization to which you donate your car has current tax-deductible status from the IRS. When you file your tax returns for the year in which you donate your car, itemize car donations along with any other deductions. You can deduct car donations up to the full, fair-market value of the vehicle.

### Subcategory: Philanthropic Benefits

**Tip: Car donation offers both practical and philosophical benefits for the donor and the end-recipients.**

The appeal of a car donation is easy to understand. If you dispose of an old car, you can both help a worthy cause AND take advantage of tax rules designed to reward the generosity of Americans. IRS-approved car donation charities make a great way to give AND receive in return. Taxpayers who itemize deductions on their tax return can deduct, within limits, the fair market value of their contributions to qualified charities.

Subcategory: Practical Benefits

**Tip: Personal factors may affect your decision to donate your car, rather than sell it or keep it.**

Some people even donate because the car was stolen and returned but it just isn't the same any more, or perhaps they have too many automobiles and want to use this one to benefit the needy. There are as many different reasons as there are people for making a car donation. All of them are good, and result in benefits for people in need.

**Tip: Whatever your reasons, if your car donation is tax deductible and will make a difference for someone in need.**

Whatever your philanthropic or personal reasons, your auto donation is fully tax deductible, and will make an amazing difference to someone in need! Arrangements will be made to pick up your car donation at no cost to you, almost anywhere in the United States, and you will be supplied with the necessary paperwork to claim your tax deduction for your car donation.

## Category: Car Donation Charities

Subcategory: Charities Accepting Vehicle Donations

**Tip: Charities that accept Vehicle Donations: Davis Research Foundation**

Davis Research Foundation (DRF) was established in 1988 as a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation. Its mission is to research, develop and broadly disseminate effective counseling and teaching methods to resolve dyslexia and other learning disabilities. The DRF accepts vehicle donations. Visit [www.help-kids-read.org](http://www.help-kids-read.org) or call 1-888-484-5563 for more information.

**Tip: Charities that accept Vehicle Donations: Salvation Army**

The Salvation Army is a faith-based international organization that provides addiction Dependency Services, Health Services, Social Work, Emergency Response and Family Tracing Services, as well as many other community development and ministry services throughout the world. In the United States, the bell-ringing Santa by a red urn is the most well-known emblem of the Salvation Army and its giving opportunities. However, the Salvation Army was one of the first charitable organizations to accept vehicle donations, and you can donate operable cars, trucks, motorcycles, RVs or boats (on trailers) to a Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center. You can find out more information about the Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation program, locate its centers, and learn more about Salvation Army vehicle donations at <http://www.satruck.com/>.

## Category: Car Donation Programs

Subcategory: Car Donation Programs

### **Tip: Rules May Differ for Car Donations Worth More Than \$5,000**

Car donations are a lot easier for many donors, since new tax laws went into effect in 2005. No longer do taxpayers need to figure out on their own the fair market value of their auto donations. Most often, when you donate a car that's worth more than \$500, you will claim as your tax write-off the amount the car is sold for by the charity. But there are exceptions. People who donate a car valued at more than \$5,000, for example, fall in a special category. These donors may need a certified appraisal shortly before making the car donation to verify its value. The IRS requires the appraisal in cases where the tax deduction is not the amount of the gross proceeds if the car is resold. The charity can explain if your car donation falls in this category. It's also a good idea to contact an accountant.

### **Tip: Transferring Car's Title is Donor's Responsibility**

For-profit companies hired by charities provide convenient services to encourage Americans to donate their cars, campers, trucks, motorcycles and RVs. But the donor still bears responsibility for transferring the title of ownership. If the donor is not careful, he or she can face liability problems down the road if ownership is not legally changed. The transfer usually requires the donor to file a form with the state motor vehicle department stating the car was donated.

Subcategory: Choosing a Charitable Car Donation Program

### **Tip: Ask what the program will do with the vehicles.**

Organizations usually sell the vehicles and use the proceeds to fund programs. Others use cars as teaching tools in educational programs and to provide transportation to low income families or dislocated workers. If you have a preference for how your vehicle will be used, it you should ask the car donation service or the charity these questions. Also, according to new IRS guidelines for vehicle donations, the documentation that you will need from the charity will be different depending on how the organization will use the vehicle.

### **Tip: Make sure the transaction is legal.**

Often, reputable charities take possession of the vehicle in their own name. Be sure that the title is transferred correctly and cancel your car insurance on that vehicle.

## Category: Car Donation Services

### Subcategory: Car Donation Services

#### **Tip: Charities Provide Receipts for Car Donations**

New tax laws that went into effect in 2005 have led to more paperwork for folks who want to make a car donation and claim a tax write-off. With the tighter tax laws, charities are providing IRS forms as part of their car donation services. If donors claim a deduction of more than \$500 for the donated vehicle, they will need to file IRS Form 1098-C. But don't let the redtape deter you. Reputable charities provide the forms, or a written acknowledgement disclosing how much the donated auto sold for at auction. The amount of the gross proceeds is the amount of the tax deduction. Expect to get the form from the charity within a month of the sale. If the form arrives after a tax return is filed, the donor needs to file an amendment to the return. Talk to an accountant for more information. If the donated vehicle is worth \$500 or less, the taxpayer doesn't need to file Form 1098-C. But the donor still needs a receipt from the charity stating the value of the vehicle donation.

#### **Tip: Internet Is a Boost for Car Donation Services**

The Internet is a giant boost for car donation services. In an instant, vehicle donors can access hundreds of charities that offer car donation services. What kind of information can you find on the Internet? -- Locate the charity's Web site, and read about its car donation services. -- Pick a car donation program that handles your community and neighborhood. -- Determine if the charity is in good standing with the consumer division of your state Attorney General's Office. -- Fill out application forms to donate your unwanted car to specific charities. -- Look up the number and location of the nearest branch of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The DMV will replace lost titles. -- Access and read a charity's annual report. -- Check the rating a charity gets from various Web-based watchdog groups. -- Go to the IRS Web site to learn more about the new rules for claiming tax deductions for your vehicle donations. -- Read news articles and blogs on vehicle donations.

#### **Tip: Many Reasons for Donating Cars**

Donate Car For Charity Tip: Just about any vehicle these days can go to auto donation services. They include cars, trucks, motorcycles, campers, RVs, trailers, motorhomes, boats, yachts and airplanes. There are charitable groups that accept donations of classic cars and there are charities that will recycle junk cars. Americans are finding car donation services to be a useful and practical way to avoid the hassles of selling their unwanted vehicles on their own. Often the vehicles need major repairs, but this does

not matter to many charities, which sell the autos and trucks for their parts at auctions. Or the vehicles are sold at a lower price to other individuals, many of them needy. Beyond the charitable act itself, car donation services are proving a useful tool for many Americans.

### Subcategory: Car Donation Services Tips

**Tip: Donating your car through a car donation service minimize your risks and save you money.**

Selling a vehicle can take a lot of time, and doing so privately may expose you to security risks, legal liability, wasted time and the additional expenses of taxes and insurance on a vehicle you are not using. If you choose donation and use a vehicle donation service, you can usually complete the transaction within a few days &ndash; getting rid of your unwanted vehicle quickly and easily while helping out worthy causes.

## Category: Car Donation Tax Deduction

### Subcategory: Car Donation Tax Deduction

**Tip: How to Calculate the Car Donation Tax Deduction**

The IRS only allows taxpayers to use the fair market value for a car donation tax deduction, when certain conditions are met. The car donation cannot be worth more than \$500 to receive a car donation tax deduction. Or, the car donation has to be used directly by the charity in its programs or services. For example, if a charity uses a car donation for its meals-on-wheels program, the donor may be entitled to claim the car's fair market value as a tax deduction. But the vehicle needs to be in proper condition for the donor to assign fair market value. Be careful. Your used car's value may not be as high as the listing in area pricing guides. High mileage and the vehicle's condition may lower the value. Check with the IRS to learn more on figuring your car donation's value at tax time. Two publications may help: IRS Publication 526, "Charitable Deductions," and IRS Publication 561, "Determining the Value of Donated Property." The guidelines make it easier for taxpayers to follow car donation tax law when giving to charities.

**Tip: Itemize Your Car Donation Deduction**

Be prepared to itemize your car donation tax deduction when filing your taxes. Most Americans do not itemize on their taxes, so it is not a routine practice for them. But in order to get a car donation tax deduction, you must take the extra step. If you are unsure how to itemize, it's a good idea to seek help from an accountant. Car donation IRS rules require that donors fill out Form 1040, Schedule A. There may be other forms and documentation required, depending on the value of the car donation. The IRS also

wants donors to keep records on how they calculated the car donation tax deduction. The IRS, for example, requires that cars valued at \$500 or less be deducted at no more than "fair market value." The value you assign the car cannot be more than the sales prices listed in a used vehicle pricing guide, such as the Kelley Blue Book. Donors must also consider the vehicle's condition and mileage when setting the value for a car donation. When the car donation is valued at more than \$500, the amount of the car donation tax deduction depends on how the charity uses the gift. If you want more detailed information, the IRS offers free materials. Go to [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), or phone, toll free, 1-800-829-3676.

### **Tip: Plan to Document Your Car Donation**

Car donation programs have grown so rapidly that the IRS and Congress decided to bring more oversight to the system. Officials were concerned about reports of abuse in charitable giving. Among the concerns: People seeking to dispose of unwanted cars were inflating the prices beyond their worth at tax time. In 2005 the IRS issued new and detailed rules to curb problems. Now car donation IRS rules require both the donor and charitable organization to keep detailed information on vehicle donations. If donors want to get their car donation tax deduction, they need to follow car donation tax law. Here's what the IRS expects: \* Transfer ownership of the car donation to the tax-exempt charity. \* Get a receipt from the charity when it receives the car. The receipt needs to include the charity's name and registration number. \* Document the amount the charity gets when it sells the car for proceeds. The charity is required to provide written acknowledgement to the donor after the sale. \* Be prepared to show how you calculated the value of the car, if the charity plans to keep it, or it is worth \$500 or less. The charity needs to substantiate the value.

### **Tip: When to Deduct a Car's Fair Market Value**

Donate Car For Charity Tip: When claiming a car donation tax deduction, the IRS lets taxpayers use the vehicle's fair market value, provided certain conditions are met. Taxpayers may want to consult an accountant on car donation IRS rules before claiming a car donation at fair market value. The IRS offers the following guidelines: \* It may allow a tax deduction for the car's fair market value if the recipient organization "makes significant intervening use of the vehicle," or if the recipient makes major improvements to the vehicle. \* The IRS may accept a deduction of fair market value, if the charitable organization gives away the car for free, or sells it at a much lower price, to help "the poor and distressed or underprivileged." \* Finally, the IRS may accept a car donation tax deduction for fair market value if the claimed deduction is \$500 or less. The IRS offers guidance in determining whether you can deduct a car's fair market value when making a car donation to a charity. Call, toll free, 1-800-TAX-FORM, or go online to [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov), then click on the link for Publication 526, "Charitable Deductions."

## Subcategory: Car Donation Tax Law

**Tip: Take the condition of the vehicle into account when valuing the car donation.** Your tax consultant may assist you in deciding how to value your car donation, but you - the donor - and not the recipient charity, are required by the IRS to be the sole party responsible for determining what the IRS calls the "fair market value" of your car donation, taking into full consideration its condition at the time of donation. Most vehicle donation programs or a good car donation charity will assist you with this. When making car donations for charity, it is very important point to be accurate and fair in assigning a value to your vehicle; do not inflate the value you claim as a tax deduction.

## Category: Donate an RV

### Subcategory: Donate an RV Tips

**Tip: Recreational Vehicle (RV) or motor home donations generally follow the same rules and procedures as car donations.**

Donating an RV or motor home to charity is another form of vehicle donation. Many organizations accepting cars also accept RV donations, and many nation-wide services will process your donation for you.

## Category: Donating a Car to Charity

### Subcategory: Donating a Car to Charity

**Tip: Charities Have Their Own Costs in Car Donations**

Revenues from vehicle donations is a vital resource for charities. But the proceeds a charity gets from an automobile donation often is less than what the donor expects. Understand there are hidden costs that charities bear in offering automobile donation programs. The knowledge can help you in your decision to donate. Some charities enlist the services of an auction house to sell the vehicle donations for wholesale prices. The prices the charities get may not be what donors could have received by selling the vehicles through classified ads. Also, the charity may incur costs for processing the vehicle. These costs reduce the amount of money that is raised by car donations for charitable works.

**Tip: Keep Records When Donating Cars**

Donating cars is an excellent way to help a favorite charity while getting rid of used vehicles. Many donors also use car donations for tax deductions. It is important to

carefully document your car donation, in case the charity, the IRS or your accountant later has questions. Your personal records should include: (1) The charity's name and address; (2) The date and place you made the automobile donation; (3) A description of the car donation, including year, make, model and condition. Include a photo. (4) The value you placed on the car, which should not be more than the fair market value of the car. State how you calculated the value of the car donation. Include an appraisal, if the car is worth more than \$5,000. (5) A history of your own purchase of the car. Was it a gift? Did you buy it? (6) Copies of the title, registration and receipts from the charity. Receipts from the charity should include an acknowledgement when the vehicle is collected, and a statement of the amount received when the vehicle later is resold by the charity.

## Category: Midwest US Car Donations

Subcategory: Midwest US Car Donations

### **Tip: Car donation by city: Indianapolis, IN**

Car donations in the Indianapolis area are subject to the same policies and procedures as car donations throughout Indiana. Donate a Car for Charity, part of the Family Care Foundation (FCF), an IRS-registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, offers vehicle pick-up in Indianapolis, as well as throughout the state of Indiana and nationwide. Because of Family Care Foundation's extensive network in and around Indianapolis, you can expect a free and prompt pick up of your vehicle.

### **Tip: Chicago Guide Offers List of City Charities**

The first step to making Chicago car donations is to learn about the charities active in the city. Check online for a comprehensive list of charities by organization and by neighborhood. One charity organization is Great Doings, which bills itself as Chicago's "oldest, largest and most frequently visited repository for charity-related event information." Great Doing will give donors a sense of the options for giving in Chicago. But it will be up to donors to contact these charities on their own to see if they have car donation programs.

### **Tip: Consider a Charity Rooted in its Community**

Looking for an established charity for your Chicago car donations? Consider a charity with a proven track record of serving the Chicago community. Some charities with car donation programs are nationally based, and the proceeds may not benefit a specific city or its residents. An example of a Chicago-based charity with strong ties to the city's diverse communities is public TV station WTTW, Channel 11. WTTW11 has a variety of media &ndash; television, radio, print, online, and events. Most Chicagoans are familiar

with it and its programs. So how does its car donation program work? WTTW11 relies on member support whether its volunteering or donating a gift. WTTW11 will accept unwanted cars, trucks, or motorcycles as donations. The vehicles are sold, with the proceeds supporting WTTW11 and its sister radio station, 98.7WFMT. To donate a vehicle, call toll free, 866-740-9889.

### **Tip: Michigan Donors Beware When Making Car Donations**

When making a Michigan car donation, it is wise to check with the Charitable Trust Section of the Michigan Attorney General's Office. The office lets people know if a charity is licensed in Michigan to conduct solicitations. There have been reports nationally of businesses, including used car dealers, that try to pass themselves off as charities to get vehicle donations. This is troublesome for donors, who cannot claim a tax deduction for the donation unless it is to a registered charity. If you have doubts or suspicions when making a Michigan car donation, contact the Charitable Trust Section of the Michigan Attorney General's Office. The office keeps contracts between charities and their fundraisers, the companies they hire to oversee car donations.

### **Tip: Michigan Kidney Foundation Accepts Car Donations**

The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan is a well-established charity that accepts Michigan car donations and keeps the proceeds in state for the causes it serves. The foundation offers programs in education, patient services, research and organ donation awareness. For a Michigan car donation, the kidney foundation works with a Detroit fundraiser to manage the program in southeastern Michigan. The National Kidney Foundation of Michigan reports that it gets more than 70 percent of the proceeds for charitable work, which is higher than many car donation programs.

## Category: Northeast US Car Donations

Subcategory: Northeast US Car Donations

### **Tip: Contact Massachusetts Public Charities Division for information on local charities.**

To obtain a list of eligible charities or to check on the legitimacy of a charity to which you are considering making a gift, contact the Massachusetts Public Charities Division at (617) 727-2200, ext. 2101. Note that most non-profit organizations must register in Massachusetts, but religious organizations, educational organizations and the American Red Cross are exempt from that requirement.

### **Tip: Making a Car Donation in New York**

The first step to making a New York car donation is locating your vehicle title. If you lost the title, you will have to contact the New York Department of Motor Vehicles to replace it. You cannot make a qualified car donation to a charity without transferring the title. If the used vehicle is at least eight years old and worth less than \$1,250, you will need to fill out a special form -- Form MV35 -- with the New York Department of Motor Vehicles. To replace the lost title or access the form, go to the DMV's Web site: [www.nydmv.state.ny.us](http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us)

**Tip: The Connecticut Motor Vehicle Department can provide additional information about transferring title and releasing liability when donating a car in Connecticut.**

Donate a Car for Charity provides vehicle pick-ups throughout the state of Connecticut, including Bridgeport, New Haven, Stamford, Greenwich, Middletown, Waterbury, Hartford, Milford, Norwich, West Haven, and Trumbull.. In most cases, you must provide a clear title when you donate a vehicle in Connecticut. Please consult the Connecticut Motor Vehicle Department to determine procedures if you do not have a title. The Connecticut MVD will also be able to provide you with more information on how and when to release the liability of your donated vehicle.

## Category: Policies for Accepting Vehicle Donations

Subcategory: Policies for Accepting Vehicle Donations

**Tip: New Policies for Tax Write-Offs on Vehicle Donations**

New policies for accepting vehicle donations limit the amount donors can write off on their income taxes. What do these new policies mean for donors who want to give unwanted cars to charity and then take the tax deduction? If the used vehicle is valued at more than \$500, the tax deduction cannot exceed the amount the charity gets reselling the car. The donor will need to rely on the charity for information on how much it got for reselling the car. The donor will need to have that amount in hand when claiming a deduction at tax time. If the charity plans to keep and refurbish the car, the donor is entitled to claim the fair market value. In both cases, the charity also is required to provide written acknowledgement of the transfer to the donor. The acknowledgement needs to be supplied within 30 days after the vehicle donation.

**Tip: Tougher Standards for Tax Deductions**

Americans used to be able to claim fair market value on most any donated vehicle. Not so anymore. In 2004, Congress passed the American Jobs Creation Act. It contained vast changes for valuing vehicle donations. As a result, the IRS has a tougher policy for accepting vehicle donations as tax deductions. The tax deduction for donated vehicles

worth more than \$500 cannot top the gross proceeds the charity receives selling the vehicle. The taxpayer also needs written acknowledgment of the donation from the charity and must attach a copy to his or her tax return.

## Category: Southern US Car Donations

Subcategory: Southern US Car Donations

### **Tip: Florida Offers Free Guide to Charities**

If you plan to make a Florida car donation, you may want to consult the free "Gift Giver's Guide" to charities, offered by the state Division of Consumer Services. The guide lists registered charities in Florida, their missions, and some financial information. When making a Florida car donation for a tax deduction, donors must make sure that the charity is registered as a 501(c)3. It is up to the consumer to check the background of these charities. For the free guide, go online to: [800help.fl.com](http://800help.fl.com)

### **Tip: The Texas Department of Transportation can provide additional information about transferring title and releasing liability.**

Car donation programs and services exist throughout Texas, with vehicle pick-up available in most areas. Vehicles donated in Texas to a non-profit classified with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization are deductible from your federal income taxes. In most cases, the state of Texas requires that the donor have the vehicle title and transfer it to the charity. If you do not have title papers, refer to the Texas Motor Vehicle Registration and Titling Department for details on how to proceed. To release liability of your donated vehicle in Texas, follow the same procedure as you would if you were selling the vehicle. Refer to Texas's Department of Transportation (TxDOT) web site for more details.

### **Tip: There are many local charities in Texas that will benefit from a car or vehicle donation.**

In addition to registered charities nationwide, you can donate a car to aid charities in Texas. The Local Independence Charities of Texas ([www.lic.org](http://www.lic.org)) is an IRS-recognized federation of local nonprofit charitable organizations that are helping children, the poor, the ill and disabled, the elderly and many others in need. You can search their site for information on charities in Texas.

## Category: Vehicle Donation

## Subcategory: Vehicle Donation

### **Tip: Be Prepared to Answer Questions About Vehicle Donations**

Donate Car For Charity Tip: It's a good idea to check out a charity before you donate your vehicle. Learn about its mission and how it uses vehicle donations. Also be prepared to answer questions about your vehicle donation and to fill out an application form. What is the condition of your car? Is there a lien against it? Have you located the title? It's common for charities to accept car donations and other vehicle donations, no matter the condition. But charities do have varying standards. Some charities refuse very old cars. Others will sell an auto for parts and don't mind if the vehicle doesn't run. These days most charities sell vehicle donations and use the money to benefit causes, though the organizations do bear costs for processing the vehicles.

### **Tip: Better Business Bureau Offers Advice on Vehicle Donations**

The Better Business Bureau offers general advice to people who want to make vehicle donations: \* Do research and ask professionals for help. \* Seek legal and financial advice before you donate your car. Does it make financial sense to donate your vehicle? Is the charity able to meet your giving needs? \* Get the charity's annual report and read it. Find out how the charity managed its budget in the last fiscal year, including how it spent income from vehicle donations. \* Ask the charity how it uses donated vehicles. Does it resell them at wholesale prices? Or does it refurbish the vehicles for disadvantaged families that need transportation? \* Get receipts. Make sure the receipt has the registered charity's identification number on it. \* Check with your state Attorney General's Office to make sure the charity is registered as a 501(c)3. \* Contact the Better Business Bureau to find out if it has information on file about the charity and its vehicle donations.

### **Tip: Numerous Sites for Dropping Off Vehicle Donations**

Just about every town in the United States has access to vehicle donation programs. The best way to learn about ones near you is to check with your local United Way, or look on the Internet, where there are dozens of solicitations for vehicle donations to benefit charities. Some organizations may not be based in your community but have a national outreach and a 1-800 number. These organizations will send a driver or tow truck to your house to collect the vehicle. Other charities have dropoff locations at sites across a state or states. The charity will give you specific instructions for dropping off the vehicle and transferring the title. If the vehicle is inoperable, many charities offer free towing services.

### **Tip: Online Watchdog Groups Rate Charities**

Several online groups rate charities. It is not a bad idea to check them out before you donate your vehicle. The American Institute of Philanthropy and the Wise Giving

Alliance of the Better Business Bureau are two examples. These charity watchdog groups review a range of issues and have a mission to help individual become informed givers. So how can these groups help with car donations and other vehicle donations? There are scores of groups soliciting people for car donations. It is a challenge to learn which groups are best for you. Watchdog groups can provide background on charities. Some even rate them with letter grades. These groups are but one tool you can use when making vehicle donations. Here is a description of some of the charity watchdog groups: \* Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance. The Virginia-based organization reviews how well charity's meet their missions and standards. \* American Institute of Philanthropy. The Chicago nonprofit group rates charities. \* Charity Navigator. This New Jersey nonprofit also rates charities. \* GuideStar. The Williamsburg, VA, nonprofit offers free financial data on charities. \* Wall Watchers. The North Carolina group reviews Christian-affiliated charities.

Subcategory: Vehicle Donation Tips

**Tip: Watch out for differences among vehicle donation programs, and choose the one that suits your needs.**

While the IRS's guidelines are quite straightforward on how to value vehicle donations made directly to charities or through vehicle donation services, individual charities and services may have limitations on what you can donate. Most vehicle donation programs have a set of charities to which the proceeds of cars donated through them will be directed. If you have a particular charity to which you wish to donate, you can check with that charity to find out with which service they have an agreement. Some vehicle donation programs only solicit and accept certain kinds of vehicles, or have stipulations about the conditions of the vehicle. If you have a non-operational vehicle, look for a vehicle donation service that will take vehicles in any condition. Be aware that you might have to make some trade-offs, if you have a non-working vehicle and want it to go to a specific charity. Nevertheless, you will find a reputable service to help you make your vehicle donation.

Category: Western US Car Donations

Subcategory: Western US Car Donations

**Tip: Car donation by city: Portland, OR**

Car donations in the Portland area are subject to the same policies and procedures as car donations throughout Oregon. Donate a Car for Charity, part of the Family Care Foundation (FCF), an IRS-registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, offers vehicle pick-up in the Portland area, as well as throughout Oregon and nationwide.

**Tip: The Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles can provide additional information about transferring title and releasing liability.**

Car donation programs and services exist throughout Colorado, and vehicles donated in Colorado to a non-profit classified with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization are deductible from your federal income taxes. In most cases, the state of Colorado requires that the donor have the vehicle title. If you do not have title papers, you can apply for a duplicate title through the Division of Motor Vehicles. To release liability of your donated vehicle in Colorado, follow the same procedure as you would if you were selling the vehicle. Refer to Colorado's Division of Motor Vehicles web site for more details.