

6 Rules to Prevent Church Donation Scams

A Simple Safety Framework for Churches, Ministries, and Faith Communities

Stop. Think. Verify.

1

No Money Requests by Text

Church leaders should never ask for money through text messages, DMs, or personal emails. All giving should go through official church channels only.

2

One Official Giving Link

Every church should maintain a single official donation page. Never distribute new giving links through text messages or social media posts.

3

Verify Urgent Requests

If a message creates urgency: Pause. Call the person using a saved phone number. Confirm the request. Never trust the number inside the message.

4

Watch for Pastor Impersonation

Scammers frequently pretend to be pastors or ministry leaders. Common messages include: "Are you available?" "I need a favor."

"Can you buy gift cards for a church need?" Always verify directly.

5

Pause Before Sending Money

Scams rely on speed. Legitimate church giving should never require immediate action. Take time to verify before sending any funds.

6

Report Suspicious Messages

If a scam attempt appears: Tell church leadership. Warn the congregation. Share the pattern publicly. Fraud spreads in silence.

Protect the trust that makes your church strong.

Use the SAF framework:

Stop. Think. Verify.

StopAiFraud.com

SAF

StopAiFraud Foundation

Public Safety Education

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

© 2026 StopAiFraud Foundation