

Professional Fund Raisers

By way of general information, organizations will sometimes hire professional fund raisers that produce traveling circuses, variety shows, donkey baseball games, etc., as special fund raising events. Typically, after an agreement is reached, a fund raising firm sells tickets for the show. In many instances, solicitors will state that if you aren't interested in attending the show, you can purchase tickets that will be distributed to handicapped or under privileged children in your area. If such statements are made, don't hesitate to ask the solicitor how many children there are, how they are chosen, how many tickets for the children have been sold, how the tickets will be distributed to such children, and if the transportation to the event will be provided. In many communities, the number of children "eligible" to receive free tickets is limited and transportation to the event is not arranged. So, in effect, free tickets given to a few needy children that attend the event might have been paid over time by the businesses and individuals who have bought the tickets.

If you consider purchasing tickets as a "charitable contribution" as opposed to your own direct use, evaluate the organization and the solicitation as you would any other "charitable" solicitation by determining the name and programs of the charity, and how much of what you pay will go to the charity's programs as opposed to fund raising.