



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Memorandum

To: Kentucky League of Cities, Kentucky Magistrates and Commissioners Association, Kentucky Association of Counties and Kentucky County Judge Executives Association  
From: Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Re: Donated Clothing Collection Bins  
Date: February 7, 2014

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It has come to the attention of our office that certain communities are being asked to consider proposals that would place new or enhanced regulations on the placement of donated clothing collection bins used for charitable purposes.

Legitimate charitable organizations utilize these collection bin programs to generate revenue in support of programs that help some of our most vulnerable citizens. Without these bin programs, some of these organizations could face a funding loss that may impact programs and services they offer in your communities.

Textile (clothing) recycling doesn't just help charitable organizations, it helps your community. Nearly 5% of landfill space is taken up by textile items that could have been recycled, and it is estimated that only 15% of potentially recyclable material is currently entering the recycling system. By providing more opportunity to recycle old clothing, these bin programs can cut down on the amount of material going to landfills.

The Office of the Attorney General has the utmost respect for your authority to promulgate or enact ordinances, rules and regulations within your community. We hope you will help protect these legitimate charitable organizations' ability to carry out collection bin programs. If you have any questions or need further guidance on this issue, please feel free to contact the Consumer Protection division of our office at (502) 696-5300.

In order to maximize the benefit these bins can have in your community, the Office of the Attorney General hopes that you will consider the following best practices if your jurisdiction is faced with this issue:

Best Practices for Donated Clothing Collection Bins

1. Comply with disclosure requirements set forth in KRS 367.668.
2. Bins should clearly identify the name and phone number of the company responsible for maintaining the bin, the sponsoring organization and the charity receiving the benefit.
3. Refrain from using deceptive or ambiguous labels/logos on bins that imply donations will go to support a particular cause if there is no underlying affiliation with a charity and clearly disclose the profit nature of your business on the bins.
4. Obtain written consent from a property owner prior to placing and/or moving a collection bin on private property.
5. Service bins as often as necessary to avoid accumulation of donated items or debris around the bins.
6. Provide the property owner with contact information and commit to responding to any complaints regarding box maintenance within 24 hours of receiving notification during regular business hours.
7. Comply with applicable local, state and municipality zoning and permitting requirements.

