

APPRAISAL DISTRICT CONDUCTS AUDIT OF ALL CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

According to the Methods and Assistance Program review required by the Property Tax Code every two years, San Augustine County Appraisal District is required to perform an audit of all of the county's charitable organizations, including churches. The Property Tax Code states a charitable organization must be organized exclusively to perform religious, charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes.

The review is conducted by the Comptroller of Public Accounts office. Two vital items are needed, (1) a charitable organization's certificate from the Comptroller's office and (2) by-laws with a dissolution clause.

The appraisal district is not doubting the authenticity of the local charitable organizations but ensuring that the necessary paperwork is provided. Not all of the organizations have those two items included and they are urged to resolve that in the near future.

The certificate ensures that the organization qualifies as a non-profit and may be obtained from the Comptroller's Office if an organization is unable to locate their original certificate.

The dissolution clause addresses that upon dissolution of the organization its assets would be transferred to another charitable organization. That clause must be stated in the organization's by-laws, an organization may revise its by-laws if necessary to include the clause.