

Frequently Asked Questions:

What are the benefits of donating my car to Catholic Charities of Los Angeles?

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles benefits by receiving a cash donation to fund programs that help those who are poor and homeless.

You benefit by being able to reduce your taxable income when taxes are itemized. Plus you avoid the costs associated with selling your car. No need to pay for advertising, no loss of privacy and possible security risk, and no need to pay for vehicle registration, insurance, and repairs to keep your car in running condition while you wait for a buyer.

Can I designate who benefits from my donation?

Yes. You can designate a specific Region or program of Catholic Charities to benefit from your vehicle donation by simply stating that in the “Add Message” space at the bottom of the “Donate a Vehicle” page.

Does my car have to be running to donate it?

No. In some cases we can take your car, running or not. However, it must be tow-able. Contact a representative at 855-370-GIVE or 855-370-4483 to find out if your vehicle qualifies for pick-up.

Do you only accept cars for donation?

Many types of motor vehicles are accepted including boats, motorcycles, trucks, and cars, motor-homes, airplanes, time-shares, and even houses. If you are uncertain as to whether or not your vehicle is eligible, please contact the vehicle donation program.

How long will it take to pick up my vehicle?

We make donating your car as simple and convenient as possible. In some cases, if we receive your call early in the day, a same-day pick can be available. A tow company will contact you within two to three business days.

Do I have to be with the vehicle at the time of pick-up?

No. Special arrangements can be made by calling our representatives.

What paperwork do I need?

The only paperwork needed is a signed, clear title. Have your title with you when you call-in your donation. [Please note: a clear title indicates the title is in the name of the donor without a lien].

Do I need a smog certificate in order to donate my car?

No; you may donate your vehicle without the smog certificate.

What if I receive legal notices?

In the rare event that you receive any notification of a lien sale, DMV action, or other activity related to your donated vehicle, please contact us at 855-370-GIVE or 855-370-4483 immediately for assistance.

How does the new law effect my tax deduction?

You will receive IRS Form 1098-C, Contributions of Motor Vehicles, Boats, and Airplanes if the proceeds from the sale exceed \$500, stating the amount of the gross proceeds from the sale of the donated vehicle.

Will I get a tax receipt for my donation?

Yes, you will receive an IRS Form 1098C in the event that the sale of the vehicle exceeds \$500. If the vehicle does not exceed \$500, the thank you letter that you will receive can used as a tax receipt.

What can I claim as a deduction?

According to the tax law effective January 1, 2005, if the claimed value of the donated vehicle exceeds \$500, the taxpayer is limited to the gross proceeds of the sale.

An IRS Form 1098-C, Contributions of Motor Vehicles, Boats, and Airplanes will be mailed to you within 30 days of the sale stating the amount of gross proceeds received from your car, provided your vehicle sold for more than \$500 and you have submitted your social security number. This will be your tax receipt for your charitable contribution.

How is the value determined on the vehicle donated?

The value is determined by the gross proceeds raised from the sale of the donated vehicle.

What if my car is valued over \$500?

Effective January 1, 2005, you are no longer required to have vehicles appraised. The value you may claim will be the amount of gross proceeds received from your vehicle.