



The Office of  
**Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison**

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May 14, 2026

Homegrown Music Festival  
P.O. Box 16505  
Duluth, MN 55816-0505

**Re: Charities Registration with the Minnesota Attorney General**

Dear Homegrown Music Festival:

It has come to the attention of this Office that Homegrown Music Festival may be soliciting charitable contributions in Minnesota without being registered or filing Annual Reports as required by the Minnesota Charitable Solicitation Act ("Act"), Minn. Stat. ch. 309. Accordingly, your organization may need to register with this Office.

Note that registration with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office is required by a specific set of state laws. It is **not** the same as gaining exemption or filing returns with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. Further, it is **not** the same as filing paperwork with the Minnesota Secretary of State incorporating as a nonprofit under chapter 317A.

Specifically, the Act requires a charitable organization that solicits or plans to solicit contributions in excess of \$25,000, has paid staff, or uses a professional fund-raiser to register on provided forms with the Minnesota Attorney General's Office, unless the organization is exempt. *See* Minn. Stat. §§ 309.515, 309.52. **Organizations that fail to register and report as a soliciting charity when required may be subject to Attorney General investigation, civil penalties for each violation, and other remedies.** *See* Minn. Stat. § 309.57 subd. 1 (providing for \$25,000 civil penalty "for each violation" of the Act).

Even if your organization does not solicit contributions and you do not believe your organization needs to register under the Act, you may also wish to review the registration and reporting requirements for charitable trusts. A charitable trust may include any "organization with a charitable purpose." Minn. Stat. § 501B.36. Unless exempt, a charitable trust must register with the Attorney General's Office as a charitable trust if it has assets of more than \$25,000 at any point in time during the year. *See* Minn. Stat. § 501B.36. **Organizations that fail to properly register and report as a charitable trust may be subject to Attorney General investigation, civil actions, and other remedies.** *See* Minn. Stat. §§ 501B.40, 501B.41. An organization that is registered as a soliciting charity does not need to register as a charitable trust. *See* Minn. Stat. § 501B.36, subdiv. (6).

To register with this Office, the organization should complete and return the Charitable Organization Initial Registration Form or the Charitable Trust Initial Registration Form with all required attachments and pay the \$25 registration fee. If the organization believes it is exempt from registration, it should return the appropriate completed exemption form. For more information, the registration form, and the exemption form, please visit <http://www.ag.state.mn.us/Charity/DownloadForms.asp>.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and ask that you respond **within 20 days**.

CHARITIES REGISTRAR  
Minnesota Attorney General's Office  
(651) 757-1496

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AGO MGDPA 26-144-00005