

**United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra  
USA Patriot Act Compliance Form  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the USA Patriot Act?**

The USA Patriot Act was established in 2001. This Act contains many regulations regarding anti-terrorism in the United States. Specifically, Section 314 (a)(2)(A) of the Act addresses efforts to deter money laundering for terrorism through banking institutions, charitable organizations, and not-for-profits. The Act requires charitable organizations and not-for-profits like United Way to cooperate with law enforcement agencies in regards to terrorist acts or money laundering activities. The full USA Patriot Act can be viewed at the Library of Congress website, [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov).

**Why does United Way need our organization to sign the USA Patriot Act Compliance Form?**

The Federal Government requires all banking institutions, charitable organizations, and not-for-profits to comply with the 2001 USA Patriot Act. Because of this, United Way of America has mandated that all local United Ways are to be compliant with the USA Patriot Act. We are required to perform the following tasks, in addition to others, annually for all agencies who directly or indirectly receive money through our organization. We are required to complete these tasks in order for us to maintain legal compliance with the Federal Government and continue our association with United Way of America.

- A. Annually screen all agencies against specific Federal watch lists.
- B. Annually obtain, from all agencies, a certification stating that United Way funds and donations will be used in compliance with all applicable anti-terrorism financing and asset control laws, statutes and executive orders.

**Who is authorized to sign the form?**

The USA Patriot Act does not provide specific guidance in this area; however, we recommend the signor of the form be someone who is knowledgeable about your organization's use of money received through United Way.

**Why doesn't the Federal Government handle this instead?**

As it currently stands, the USA Patriot Act delegates the responsibility of documentation to banking institutions, not-for-profits, or charitable organizations such as United Way. The United Way of America is currently petitioning the Federal Government for change in this area.

**Why do I have to sign this form annually?**

United Way of America requires our local United Way to obtain a signed copy of this form every year from the organizations to which we designate funds. This is an annual requirement, even if your organization has signed the form the previous year.

**What happens if I choose not to sign the form?**

Both the United States Government and United Way of America have mandated all local United Ways to obtain a signed copy of this form from agencies prior to releasing funds. Without this form, we will be unable to forward funds designated by our donors to your organization. When there are no responses after several reasonable attempts have been made to obtain a signed Patriot Act Form, we will contact the donor and request they change their designation to another organization.