



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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MEDIA BUREAU ANNOUNCES PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING COMMISSION APPROVAL FOR NCE STATION FUNDRAISING TO AID JAPAN RELIEF EFFORTS

The Commission generally prohibits noncommercial educational stations from engaging in on-air fundraising activities on behalf of any entity other than the station itself. *See*, 47 C.F.R. §§ 73.503(d), 73.621(e). *See also*, *Commission Policy Concerning the Noncommercial Nature of Educational Broadcast Stations*, 90 FCC 2d 895, 907 (1982). The Commission, however, has granted rule waivers for fundraising appeals to support relief efforts following disasters of particular uniqueness or magnitude, such as Hurricanes Andrew and Katrina, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City, the January 2005 tsunami in Southeast Asia and the January 2010 Haiti earthquake. These waivers have been issued for a specific fundraising program or programs, or for sustained station appeals for periods which generally do not exceed several days.

Should a licensee wish to solicit contributions from viewers or listeners for relief efforts in light of the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan, it may file an informal request for a Section 73.503(d) or 73.621(e) waiver, whichever is appropriate, as follows:

- 1) The licensee may submit an electronic mail request to Barbara Kreisman (barbara.kreisman@fcc.gov), if the request involves a television station, or to Peter Doyle (peter.doyle@fcc.gov) and Michael Wagner (michael.wagner@fcc.gov), if the request involves a radio station.
- 2) The request should provide basic details of the fundraising activity:
 - a. the nature of the fundraising effort;
 - b. the proposed duration of the fundraising effort;
 - c. the organization(s) to which funds will be donated; and
 - d. whether the fundraiser will be part of the licensee's regularly scheduled pledge drive or fundraising effort.

For additional information, please contact the television or radio contacts provided above.

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