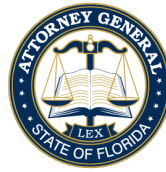


Mar 17, 2021

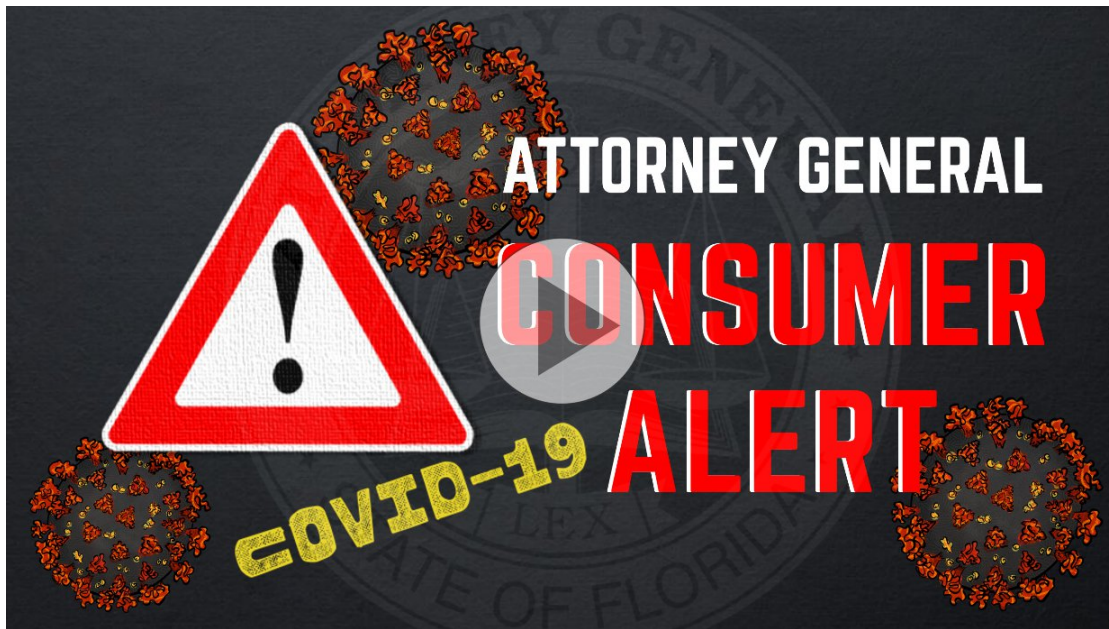
Contact Kylie Mason

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OFFICE OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL
ASHLEY MOODY
— Stronger, Safer Florida —

Attorney General Ashley Moody News Release



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today issued a Consumer Alert warning Floridians of the possibility of a resurgence in stimulus payment scams as another round of direct payments from the federal government head to Florida. As part of a massive COVID-19 relief package, direct payments from the Internal Revenue Service are headed to the bank accounts and mailboxes of millions of Floridians—creating the potential for new stimulus payment scams. Anytime a government benefit or program rolls out, scammers will try to exploit the situation for their own benefit.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “With many Americans set to receive direct payments from the federal government, we expect scammers will devise schemes to exploit the massive spending to trick recipients into parting with personal or financial information. Be smart. Seek out trusted sources of information about when your payment will be received and never respond to solicitations asking you to provide personal information or payment to receive a stimulus check.”

Floridians expecting stimulus payments should know:

- The IRS will never call a consumer directly, nor will the IRS send unsolicited emails, texts or social media messages;
- Recipients will not be required to make a purchase to receive a stimulus check;
- Offers advertising expedited delivery of the stimulus payment for a fee are suspicious and can be scams; and

- Solicitations asking receivers to click a link or provide sensitive information are probably scams.

Some common signs of scams include:

- Unsolicited calls or emails;
- High-pressure tactics or too-good-to-be-true offers;
- Threats of loss if immediate action is not taken; and
- Requests for immediate payment by wire transfer, credit, prepaid debit or gift cards.

Last December, to highlight potential stimulus payment and COVID-19 related scams and provide resources for Floridians to share with loved ones, Attorney General Moody's Scams at Glance program released two new downloadable brochures detailing information about how to spot common COVID-19 and stimulus scams to stop fraud in its tracks. The brochures are printable and available in both English and Spanish.

To view *Scams at a Glance: Stimulus Payments* in English, click [here](#).

To view *Scams at a Glance: Stimulus Payments* in Spanish, click [here](#).

To view *Scams at a Glance: Coronavirus Scams* in English, click [here](#).

To view *Scams at a Glance: Coronavirus Scams* in Spanish, click [here](#).

Attorney General Moody launched the Scams at a Glance webpage in July 2020 to offer Floridians an online outreach program as the state and nation began to see a rise in scams brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. The webpage is designed to provide consumers with information on how to spot and avoid falling victim to fraud.

To access Attorney General Moody's Scams at a Glance webpage, click [here](#).

Additionally, Attorney General Moody has issued more than 30 Consumer Alerts with information about emerging scams and tips to avoid fraud related to the COVID-19 pandemic. To view the latest alerts and to stay up to date on COVID-19 related scams, visit the Attorney General's Consumer Alert webpage by clicking [here](#).

To report fraud or file a complaint, visit [MyFloridaLegal.com](https://www.myfloridalegal.com) or call 1(866) 9NO-SCAM.

For additional COVID-19 tips and resources, click [here](#).

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The Florida Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division issues Consumer Alerts to inform Floridians of emerging scams, new methods used to commit fraud, increased reports of common scams, or any other deceptive practice. Consumer Alerts are designed to notify Floridians about scams and available refunds in an effort to prevent financial losses or other harm caused by deceptive practices. Anyone encountering a scam should report the incident to the Florida Attorney General's Office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or visiting [MyFloridaLegal.com](https://www.myfloridalegal.com).