

Date July 21, 2023

## Attorney General Moody's Week in Review - July 21, 2023



This week, I announced the creation of the Cyber Fraud Enforcement Unit to combat cybercrime in Florida. The unit includes criminal and civil attorneys within my office who work with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and other law enforcement agencies to help solve online criminal activity.

Internet-based crime is one of the fastest growing security threats we face. In the first half of last year alone, more than 53 million Americans were affected by cybercrime. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, more than 40,000 Floridians lost nearly \$845 million to cybercrimes in 2022. And according to the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, 47% of Americans have had their personal information exposed to cybercriminals.

Investigating online crime takes a great amount of time and resources. As cybercrime increases, the enforcement gap continues to grow as federal agencies often focus attention on cases involving multimillion-dollar losses, leaving small businesses and Floridians victimized to a lesser degree with a smaller path to recourse.

Noticing this gap in enforcement, I worked with legislative leaders and our law enforcement partners to build a team to help fill that void in our state and protect Floridians from emerging high-tech schemes.

The unit is already working hard and recovering hundreds of thousands of dollars for victims. Just last week, we took down a complex cybercrime ring that used cryptocurrency and illicit websites to launder money and exploit massive amounts of stolen identities.

If you become a victim of cybercrime, immediately:

- Secure devices by changing all passwords;
- Preserve evidence by taking screenshots;
- Report the crime to [FDLE's Computer Crime Center](#);
- If the crime involved unauthorized access to financial accounts, notify the bank and credit card company;
- Freeze credit; and
- Update antivirus, firewall and security software.

With our Cyber Fraud Enforcement Unit combating online illicit activity and shutting down cybercriminals' operations, we are building a Stronger, Safer Florida.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## **In The News**

**New Cyber Fraud Enforcement Unit will fight illegal online activity in Florida, FOX 13 Tampa Bay**

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**Attorney General Moody announces Cyber Fraud Enforcement Unit, ABC 7 Sarasota**

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**Ashley Moody Launches Cyber Fraud Enforcement Unit to Combat Illicit Online Activity, Florida Daily**

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**First-ever statewide cyber fraud enforcement 'will keep Florida citizens safe' against cybercrimes, leaders say, CBS 10 Tampa Bay**

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**Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody says AI is making scam calls worse, WUSF Public Media**

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**Florida AG Ashley Moody Warns Of AI Voice Scam In 'Tech Trap' Summer Scams Series, Tampa Free Press**

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**Attorney general warns about sweepstakes scams, Local 10 Miami**

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**Lottery scam warning over thieves tricking players into handing over cash as authorities reveal major red flags, The U.S. Sun**

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**Beware sweepstakes scams, Gulf Breeze News**

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