

Aug 31, 2023

Contact Kylie Mason

Phone (850) 245-0150



OFFICE OF THE  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**STATE OF FLORIDA**

## Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

### Attorney General Moody Puts Would-Be Looters on Notice After Hurricane Idalia Strike—Florida Will Not Tolerate Lawlessness



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is putting would-be looters and other criminals looking to take advantage of vulnerable Floridians in the wake of Hurricane Idalia on notice. Today, Attorney General Moody sent a letter to state attorneys in the circuits affected by Idalia, outlining state law requiring that no defendant charged with a theft crime committed in an area under a declared state of emergency be released prior to a first appearance hearing.

**Attorney General Ashley Moody** said, “Looters must be locked up in pretrial detention for as long as possible to ensure they do not continue to wreak havoc on displaced Floridians or pull vital resources from ongoing recovery efforts. I have been in contact with the State Attorneys in the hardest hit areas and have asked them to seek pretrial detention to the fullest extent possible for looters looking to take advantage of Floridians during their greatest time of need.”

Attorney General Moody asked that those state attorneys seek pretrial detention to the fullest extent possible for defendants who commit crimes during the current state of emergency. Florida Statute §907.041(4)(b) directs that no non-monetary releases shall be granted for dangerous crimes at the first appearance hearing under certain circumstances.

To read the letter, click [here](#).

Report criminal activity to local law enforcement.

Earlier today, Attorney General Moody issued tips for Floridians affected by Hurricane Idalia to avoid falling victim to storm-related scams. To learn more, click [here](#).

Florida's Price Gouging Hotline remains activated. Consumers can report instances of severe price increases on essential commodities needed to help recover from the storm. The Florida Attorney General's Rapid Response Team is quickly responding to consumer contacts alleging price gouging.

Anyone who suspects price gouging can report it to the Florida Attorney General's Office by using the [No Scam app](#), visiting [MyFloridaLegal.com](#) or calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM. Attorney General Moody's No Scam app can be downloaded for free on Apple and Android devices through the app store by searching No Scam.

# # #