

Date February 23, 2024

Attorney General Moody's Week in Review - Feb. 23, 2024



This week, we warned Floridians about digital check manipulation scams, commonly called check cooking. Fraudsters are digitally altering stolen checks to fill their own bank accounts while draining those of victims.

In this scheme, fraudsters take photos of stolen checks and use digital tools to alter critical information, such as the payee's name and payment amount, and then cash the forgeries.

Recently, my Cyber Fraud Enforcement Unit assisted law enforcement in an investigation involving a Tampa man who manipulated checks. He stole more than \$50,000 from victims and now faces 30 years in prison.

To guard against digital check manipulation, here are some tips to follow:

- Empty your mailbox regularly and talk to trusted neighbors to help keep a watchful eye to prevent the theft of sensitive documents;
- Consistently look at bank and financial statements for unauthorized and suspicious transactions;
- Beware of unexpected delays in receiving mailed checks—this could indicate potential tampering or theft; and
- Talk to your financial institutions about using e-checks to make payments online, rather than risk sending a physical check.

To learn more about digital check manipulation schemes, visit [MyFloridaLegal.com/ConsumerAlert](https://www.myfloridalegal.com/consumer-alert).

By staying up to date on emerging types of fraud, you can avoid falling victim and help us build a Stronger, Safer Florida.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

In The News

Florida AG raises alarm on 'check cooking' after Tampa arrest, FOX 13 Tampa Bay

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Moody Warns Floridians About Digital Check Manipulation Scheme, Florida Daily

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Florida Attorney General Moody secures 30-year prison sentence for real estate investment fraudster, Insurance Newsnet

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3 men charged with operating theft ring of more than \$100,000 from Home Depots, NBC 5 West Palm Beach

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Trio accused of \$100k organized retail theft at Home Depots in 11 Florida counties, WEAR-TV Pensacola

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