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OFFICE OF THE
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Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

VIDEO: Summer Scams Series: Sunny Days and Shady Deals—AG Moody Warns Floridians About Vacation Rental Scams



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is continuing the 2024 Summer Scams Series: Sunny Days and Shady Deals to inform Floridians about common summertime scams. In this installment, Attorney General Moody is warning Floridians about vacation rental scams. According to the [Federal Bureau of Investigation's 2023 Internet Crime Complaint Center Report](#), real estate scams, including schemes involving short-term rentals, resulted in nearly \$150 million in losses nationwide.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Summer should be a time for relaxation and fun in the sun, but swindlers can turn dream vacations into nightmares. We are continuing our Summer Scams Series: Sunny Days and Shady Deals with a warning about rental scams. Remember, always be cautious when booking online and beware of too-good-to-be-true offers."

Scammers may take advantage of the skyrocketing demand for vacation rentals during the summertime and post fake listings for properties that are not available for rent. These fraudulent listings can appear on legitimate rental websites and social media platforms that seem to be

genuine offers.

To avoid vacation rental scams:

- **Verify the Listing:** Use reputable vacation rental websites and be cautious of verified listings that appear too good to be true, with significantly lower prices than similar properties in the area;
- **Research the Property:** Conduct an online search of the property's address to ensure it is available for rent. Look for reviews and feedback from previous renters;
- **Communicate Securely:** Use the rental platform for all communications and avoid transferring money directly to the property owner or manager. Beware of requests for payment via wire transfer, gift cards or cryptocurrency; and
- **Read the Contract:** Carefully review the rental agreement, including cancellation and refund policies, before booking. Ensure all terms and conditions are clearly outlined before making any payments.

To learn more about how to spot and avoid travel scams, check out *Scams at a Glance: Travel Traps* by clicking [here](#).

Floridians can report scams to Attorney General Moody's office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or visiting MyFloridaLegal.com. Online fraud can also be reported to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's [Computer Crime Center](#), and to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center at IC3.gov.

To view all the Summer Scams Series alerts, visit the Consumer Alert webpage at MyFloridaLegal.com/ConsumerAlert.

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