Date November 15, 2024

Attorney General Moody's Week in Review - Nov. 15, 2024



This week, we <u>unveiled our 2024 Holiday Consumer Protection Guide</u> to help Floridians navigate the busiest shopping season of the year.

Holiday sales surpassed \$964 billion in 2023, and this year sales are <u>expected to</u> <u>pass \$1 trillion</u>! Additionally, there are five fewer days between Black Friday and Christmas. That means there is less time to find gifts. A shorter shopping period coupled with record sales could create a perfect storm for scammers trying to take advantage of consumers.

That is why it is important for Floridians to plan their shopping and take steps to guard against scams. Our 2024 Holiday Consumer Protection Guide is packed with useful tips and a list of recalled items to help shoppers get through their holiday shopping safely.

Tips from the guide include:

• **Shop from Trusted Sources:** Buy from reputable retailers and be cautious of deals that seem too good to be true.

• **Use Secure Payment Methods:** Pay with credit cards when shopping online because they often offer fraud protection.

• Watch Out for Fake Charities: Verify charitable organizations before donating, especially in response to urgent holiday appeals.

• **Gift Card Caution:** Only buy gift cards directly from retailers and inspect the packaging for tampering.

For more information, check out the full guide <u>here</u>.

Anyone who suspects they are the victim of a holiday scam can report it to our office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or online at <u>MyFloridaLegal.com</u>.

Happy Holidays and shop safely, Florida!

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In The News

Florida attorney general warns shoppers about holiday scammers, thieves, CBS News Miami

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AG Moody Introduces 'Holiday Consumer Protection Guide', The Floridian

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Holiday shopping season is here Florida. Here's how to stay safe, NBC Miami

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Florida officials warn residents to beware of shopping scams during holiday season, WFTV 9 Orlando

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Florida Man Manipulated Colorado Babysitter Into Sending Him Pictures Of Toddlers, Tampa Free Press

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Protecting Floridians

VIDEO: Attorney General Moody Shares Resources to Help Veterans, Service Members and Loved Ones Avoid Scams This Military Family Appreciation Month



This Military Family Appreciation Month, Attorney General Moody is sharing resources to help veterans, service members and their families avoid falling victim to scams and other fraudulent schemes.

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AG Moody's OSP Secures 16-Year Sentence for Child Predator Who Manipulated Babysitter into Sending Explicit Pictures of Toddlers



Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution secured a 16-year sentence for a child predator for possessing and soliciting child pornography as well as online solicitation of minors.

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Attorney General Moody Takes Swift Action Against FEMA Officials to Make Sure ALL Americans are Served as Tropical System Looms



According to whistleblower reports, FEMA workers in Lake Placid were directed to ignore storm victims in households that displayed Trump signs or flags.

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Events

Attorney General Moody releasing the 2024 Holiday Consumer Protection Guide in Miami alongside local law enforcement and business leaders.



Attorney General Moody with Miami-Dade Sheriff-Elect Rosie Cordero-Stutz and Miami-Dade Police Director Stephanie Daniels.

