

Date April 03, 2020

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - April 3, 2020



As the federal government prepares to make payments mandated through the coronavirus stimulus package, scammers are making efforts to steal those benefits. This week, I issued a Consumer Alert to warn Floridians about emerging stimulus scams and provide tips to help them avoid falling prey to fraudsters.

Sadly, even before the coronavirus stimulus package passed, scammers began sending text messages to people claiming they could make a claim by clicking a link that most likely contained malware.

Be skeptical of any unsolicited messages from strangers asking you to click links or provide personal information to receive benefits, and educate yourself about the economic rescue package now, to avoid falling victim to these and other new fraud tactics.

Qualified tax filers who have already provided banking information to the Internal Revenue Service will receive a direct deposit in the coming weeks, and DO NOT NEED to take action. The IRS will mail notices to beneficiaries within a few weeks after payments are made. Anyone who receives a notice, but did not receive a payment, should contact the IRS immediately.

The IRS will not initiate contact with beneficiaries by email, text messages or social media to request personal or financial information. The IRS [emphasizes on its website](#) that no sign-up is needed to receive payment.

For more tips on avoiding stimulus payment scams, click [here](#).

Anyone who encounters one of these scams or any other type of COVID-19 fraud, should contact my office at 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or MyFloridaLegal.com.

Please stay safe, listen to health experts and take all necessary precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Stay safe, Florida.

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

In The News

Florida Attorney General's price gouging hotline has been ringing nonstop for the past three weeks, according to the office., ABC Action News

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COVID-19 scams, price gouging prompt statewide warnings, crackdown, Sun Sentinel

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Ashley Moody warns about coronavirus price gouging, Florida Politics

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Attorney General's Office is taking action to address allegations of price gouging, WINK News

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No April Fools' joke: 'Corona-scams' will spread as fast as COVID-19, Fort Myers News-Press

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Ashley Moody Warns Floridians About Coronavirus Stimulus Scams, Florida Daily

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Virus scams: What you need to know to be safe, The Villages Daily Sun

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Scammers are already targeting your stimulus check, Florida Attorney General warns, ABC Action News

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Floridians: Beware of 'scammers' trying to steal coronavirus stimulus money, WKMG Orlando

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CONSUMER ALERT: Scammers Use COVID-19 Stimulus Package to Target Floridians, Space Coast Daily

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Florida attorney general cracks down on coronavirus price gouging, scams, WJHG Panama City

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Coronavirus Florida: Deaths projected to hit 6,766 by August, Tallahassee Democrat

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Ashley Moody Urges Floridians to Guard Against Hackers When Working From Home, Florida Daily

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CONSUMER ALERT: Attorney General Ashley Moody Warns Citizens Against Hackers When Working From Home, Space Coast Daily

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Florida attorney general issues consumer alert about coronavirus-related scams, WPLG Miami

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Coronavirus Price Gouging: 50 online Amazon vendors being investigated by Florida's attorney general, WPTV West Palm Beach

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Florida attorney general encourages caution as COVID-19 scams on the rise, Villages-News

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Scammers in Florida tie coronavirus to Census to steal personal information, Moody says, Orlando Sentinel

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Florida Attorney General Warns Of COVID-19 Scam, WFSU Public Media

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