Date December 11, 2020

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - Dec. 11, 2020



This week, I issued a Consumer Alert warning Floridians about COVID-19 vaccine product and distribution scams. With news that thousands of doses of coronavirus vaccines will be heading to Florida soon and consumers anxious to achieve immunity, scammers may exploit the situation to rip-off Floridians. Once doses arrive, the swift and orderly distribution of the vaccine will be key to getting our state and country back on track.

With that said, I am asking all Floridians to be on the lookout for vaccine-related scams and report fraud. Scammers may try to exploit the sense of urgency surrounding the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine to swindle those trying to protect their health.

The following tips can help Floridians avoid COVID-19 vaccine-related scams:

- Seek vaccine-related information from trusted health care professionals and government officials;
- Do not respond to solicitations about vaccines;

- Never send money or financial information to anyone offering a COVID-19 vaccine or claiming the ability to expedite the process; and
- Report suspicious solicitations or COVID-19 vaccine-related advertisements to my office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or visiting <u>MyFloridaLegal.com</u>.

To view the latest alerts and to stay up-to-date on COVID-19 related scams, visit our Consumer Alert webpage by clicking <u>here</u>.

By keeping a watchful eye out for scammers and following the advice of trusted health care professionals, we will get through this pandemic and build a Stronger, Safer Florida.

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In The News

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody Warns About Coronavirus Vaccine Scams, CBS 4 Miami

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PCSO partners with Florida AG, others to identify retail crime ring, Four Corners News-Sun

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Florida attorney general joins federal regulators in lawsuit against Facebook, NBC 5 West Palm Beach

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Protecting Floridians

Attorney General Moody Leads Action to End Facebook's Monopoly Control



Attorney General Ashley Moody took action against Facebook, Inc. for its anticompetitive business practices. The court action alleges that the company has and continues to illegally stifle competition to protect its monopoly power. The lawsuit alleges that, over the last decade, the social networking giant illegally acquired competitors in a predatory manner and cut services to smaller threats—depriving users from the benefits of competition and reducing privacy protections and services along the way. This conduct is alleged to have all been done in an effort to boost its bottom line through increased advertising revenue. Attorney General Moody is joined by a bipartisan coalition of 47 other state attorneys general in filing the lawsuit against Facebook.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "One of the greatest benefits to owning a business in the United States is having the ability to operate and innovate in a free and fair marketplace. The stifling of competition and predatory actions of Facebook are inexcusable, and as a result, its users, innovation and competition have all suffered. I am proud to work with a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general to take action against Facebook for its unlawful, anticompetitive business practices and end the social media giant's monopoly control." <u>Read More</u>



Attorney

General Ashley Moody secured more than \$86 million, including millions in relief for Florida homeowners, following a multistate investigation into Nationstar Mortgage, the country's fourth-largest mortgage servicer. Attorney General Moody is joined in the multistate action by 50 attorneys general and other federal and state agencies.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Investing in a home is often the largest financial commitment a family makes—requiring years or even decades of regular monthly payments. Homeowners deserve accuracy, transparency and fair business dealings in the processing of their mortgage payments and servicing of their loans. This action will ensure improved servicing practices and better transparency for Floridians and homeowners nationwide. I am proud to secure relief for thousands affected by this mortgage servicer's faulty servicing practices." Read More

Attorney General Moody Secures Restitution for Victims of Timeshare Scam



Attorney

General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution is securing thousands of dollars in restitution for victims of a Florida timeshare scam. Through action by Attorney General Moody's OSP, Brandon Walsh, owner of Premier Rental Solutions and Paramount Property Professionals, entered a guilty plea to charges related to a timeshare resale scam operating out of Orlando. At least 50 Floridians lost money to the deceptive actions of Walsh, PRS and PPP that targeted timeshare owners with the promise of the quick sale of property.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Many people struggle to sell their timeshare contracts and it is reprehensible that someone would take advantage of their desire to sell in order to steal their hard-earned money—turning the possibility of light at the end of the tunnel into financial loss. I am proud of my Statewide Prosecutors for securing restitution for Florida victims of this fraud." <u>Read More</u>

Events

This week, Attorney General Ashley Moody spoke with newly-elected sheriffs across Florida as part of the 2020 Florida Sheriff's Association Academy. Attorney General Moody congratulations the sheriffs on their new leadership roles within the Florida law enforcement community.

