

Date April 14, 2023

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - April 14, 2023



This week, we concluded the final installment of our Tax-Season Scams Series, highlighting a drastic increase in reports to the Internal Revenue Service about suspicious activity—a 300% increase from 2021 to 2022. We created this series to help protect Florida taxpayers from this alarming increase in suspicious activity. Throughout the past several weeks, we highlighted some of the most common tax-related scams, like:

- [Fraudulent Tax Preparers](#): These imposter tax preparers, often advertising the cheapest rates or promise the greatest refunds, but their real goal is to obtain a victim’s personal and financial information;
- [Tax Identity Theft](#): When a bad actor uses, or attempts to use, personal information of another individual to steal a tax return;
- [Refund Recalculation Scheme](#): Phishing messages sent to targets that look like a tax-refund payment or a recalculation of a tax refund. These messages contain a link asking targets to input personal information in order to claim a fake refund; and
- [IRS Imposter Scams](#): When a scammer pretends to be the IRS by spoofing caller ID, emails or text messages to trick targets into believing the IRS is legitimately

attempting to make contact—all in an attempt to steal personal information.

For more information about all of these schemes, including tips about how to avoid tax-related scams, visit [MyFloridaLegal.com/ConsumerAlert](https://www.myfloridalegal.com/consumeralert).

Stay Safe, Florida.

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

In The News

Moody warns Floridians of tax-season scams, Bay News 9

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Be leery of crooks using tax season to steal your information, WFLA News Channel 8 Tampa

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Florida sues Biden administration over crack pipe controversy: 'Misguided, reckless policies', FOX News

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Florida Sues Biden Administration Over Crack Pipe Records Request, Daily Caller

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Florida AG Moody Sues Biden Admin Over FOIA For Crack Pipe Records, The Tampa Free Press

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Florida attorney general calls on Congress to impeach DHS Secretary Mayorkas, Center Square Florida

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Florida AG warns of pet scams on National Pet Day, WPEC CBS 12 West Palm Beach

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Protecting Floridians

Attorney General Moody Takes Legal Action to Investigate Whether Biden Used Taxpayer Dollars to Buy Crack Pipes for Drug Addicts



Attorney General Ashley Moody is demanding information about whether a Biden administration program used taxpayer money to purchase crack pipes for drug addicts. Attorney General Moody is taking legal action against two federal agencies due to withheld information with respect to the program’s suspected practices. In February 2022, Florida sent Freedom of Information Act requests to the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services seeking records regarding the alleged use of federal grant funds to promote drug use through safe smoking kits—in which some were reportedly found to include crack pipes and other drug-related paraphernalia. Now, more than a year later, with both agencies failing to reply to the state’s request, Attorney General Moody is taking DOJ and HHS to court to bring the information to light.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “If Biden is using your tax dollars to buy crackpipes for drug addicts, you have the right to know. Our country is in the grips of a drug overdose crisis, and the Biden administration is stonewalling our requests and keeping the public in the dark about so many misguided, reckless policies. We are taking them to court to get answers for the American people.” [Read More](#)

Following A Scathing Order Highlighting DHS’s Subject Failure at the Border, AG Moody Calls on Congress

Attorney General Ashley Moody

NEWS ALERT



Attorney

General Ashley Moody is urging Congress to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas following a [Read More](#)

Attorney General Ashley Moody

NEWS ALERT



Company Impeding

Attorney

General Ashley Moody is taking action against a company for helping businesses avoid credit card chargebacks from consumers. In a complaint filed in federal court, Attorney General Moody and the Federal Trade Commission allege that

Chargebacks911 and its owners, Gary Cardone and Monica Eaton Cardone, are engaging in deceptive and unfair practices in violation of Florida law and the FTC Act by wrongfully impeding consumers' attempts to dispute credit card charges through the chargeback process.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "This company helped businesses fight consumer challenges to credit card charges—using false evidence. My Consumer Protection team, with the Federal Trade Commission, filed an action to shut down these illegal practices, and will continue fighting on behalf of Floridians." [Read More](#)

CONSUMER ALERT: Attorney General Moody Provides Tips for Floridians to Avoid Puppy Scams on National Pet Day



On National Pet Day, Attorney General Ashley Moody is providing tips for Floridians to avoid falling for puppy scams. The [Read More](#)

Attorney General Moody Activates Price Gouging Hotline Following State of Emergency Declaration for Broward County



Attorney General Ashley Moody is activating Florida's Price Gouging Hotline following reports of extreme flooding in Broward County. The following expansion comes as Gov. Ron DeSantis declares of a [Read More](#)

Events

This week, Attorney General Ashley Moody congratulated Director of Law Enforcement Relations and Victim Services Gary Howze on becoming the new Colonel of the Florida Highway Patrol. Gary served the Florida Attorney General's



Attorney General Moody with University of South Florida students involved with the USF Tallahassee Internship Program.

