

Tell-tale signs of an imposter scam are:

- unsolicited calls;
- high-pressure tactics;
- threats of loss if immediate action is not taken;
- requests for immediate payment by wire transfer, credit, prepaid debit, or gift cards.

FRAUD ALERT

Tips to avoid imposter scams include:

- know that the number listed on caller ID may not be the actual number of the caller;
- do not succumb to high pressure tactics by paying money or providing sensitive information;
- verify claims made with another source;
- seek input from a trusted friend or official;
- be wary of anyone who calls or emails demanding payment by wire transfer, prepaid debit, or gift cards; and,
- report imposters to Attorney General Ashley Moody at MyFloridaLegal.com.

Florida Attorney General's Office Scams at a Glance: Imposters

Savvy consumers can stop fraud in its tracks. Visit MyFloridaLegal.com to find consumer tips or to file a complaint.

Report fraud by calling
1-866-9-NO-SCAM
(1-866-966-7226).

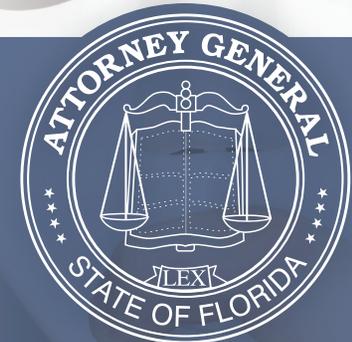


Attorney General Ashley Moody
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MyFloridaLegal.com

Scams at a Glance:

IMPOSTERS



Attorney General Ashley Moody

ROMANCE SCAMS:

An imposter attempts to forge a relationship with a victim online, through social media, or by direct contact. Once a connection is formed, the imposter often claims an urgent need for money to handle an emergency, deal with a family issue, recover from theft or a stolen identity, or travel to meet in person.

Prior to sending money, signing over property, or providing gifts to a new friend, consult a trusted friend or family member, a financial advisor, or an attorney.

CHARITY SCAMS:

A scam artist seeks to take advantage of the charitable spirit of others by posing as a representative of a legitimate charity or promoting a fictional charity.

Be sure that any charity soliciting money is legitimate before donating. Check to see if the charity is registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at FloridaConsumerHelp.com or by calling 1-800-HELP-FLA. Or contact the Better Business Bureau at Give.org or Charity Navigator at CharityNavigator.org to determine whether the charity has any complaints against it.

JURY DUTY SCAMS:

A scam artist poses as a law enforcement officer or court official and claims that a would-be victim has missed jury duty and must immediately pay a fine or face arrest. Know that a law enforcement officer or court official will not call or email seeking payment for a missed jury duty appointment.

GRANDPARENTS SCAMS:

An imposter poses as a law enforcement officer or attorney and calls grandparents claiming that a grandchild is in jail and demands immediate payment for bail. In another version, a person posing as a grandchild will call claiming to have been hurt or detained and asks for money to get home.

To avoid falling victim, do not act immediately. Instead, verify the grandchild's whereabouts through another means.

ARREST WARRANT SCAMS:

An imposter poses as a law enforcement officer or court official, claims that there is a warrant out for the potential victim's arrest, and demands they pay immediately or face arrest and jail time. Know that a law enforcement officer or court official will not call or email demanding payment to void a warrant.

SWEEPSTAKES, LOTTERY AND PRIZE SCAMS:

A scam artist claims that a potential victim has won a sweepstakes, lottery, or prize of some sort and must pay taxes, fees, customs duties, or shipping in order to claim the winnings. Know that a legitimate sweepstakes, lottery, or prize will not include a demand for payment in order to collect winnings.

UTILITY SCAMS:

An imposter claims to be a representative of a utility provider and threatens to shut off power, gas, or water unless payment is made immediately. To avoid falling victim, hang up and call the utility provider at the phone number listed on a billing statement to confirm the authenticity of the call and inquire about the status of the account.

