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OFFICE OF THE
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Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

CA: Beware of Scammers Trying to Exploit Child Tax Credit Payments



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today issued a Consumer Alert warning that scammers may attempt to target recipients of the Child Tax Credit payments. Last week, eligible parents started to receive a monthly advance payment on the Child Tax Credit as part of the [American Rescue Plan Act](#). An estimated 36 million families will continue to receive payments from the Internal Revenue Service of up to \$300 per child, per month.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Anytime the federal government is doling out huge amounts of money, scammers pounce—trying to make a quick, dishonest dollar. With this latest round of federal stimulus money slated to be distributed, parents should be on the lookout for scams.”

Attorney General Moody is asking eligible Floridians to stay informed about the payment schedule to avoid scams and to seek out verified sources of information, such as the IRS, to stay up to date. The following tips will also help Floridians spot and avoid scams related to the Child Tax Credit payments:

- Eligible families will receive payments automatically and do not have to sign up or register for Child Tax Credit payments;
- The IRS will never randomly call, text, email or direct message anyone asking for money or personal information. If asked, hang up immediately and directly contact the business or

- agency that the fraudster was impersonating;
- The IRS will never ask for payment via gift card, wire transfer or cryptocurrency; and
- Any offers to speed up the delivery time of a Child Tax Credit payment is a scam.

Scammers may use tactics that Attorney General Moody's Scams at a Glance program highlights. For additional tips and information regarding stimulus payment scams, click [here](#).

To read *Scams at a Glance: Stimulus Scams* in English, click [here](#).

To read *Scams at a Glance: Stimulus Scams* in Spanish, click [here](#).

In June, the IRS sent letters about the Child Tax Credit to eligible parents and guardians. Letters and payments should go to families based on 2019 or 2020 federal income tax return information, although filing a tax return is not required to receive the credit. Floridians can also use the [Non-Filers tool](#) on the IRS website to check eligibility status.

To find out other qualification requirements for the [Advance Child Tax Credit in 2021](#), visit [IRS.gov](#).

If a scam is suspected, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](#).

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The Florida Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division issues Consumer Alerts to inform Floridians of emerging scams, new methods used to commit fraud, increased reports of common scams, or any other deceptive practice. Consumer Alerts are designed to notify Floridians about scams and available refunds in an effort to prevent financial losses or other harm caused by deceptive practices. Anyone encountering a scam should report the incident to the Florida Attorney General's Office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or visiting MyFloridaLegal.com