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OFFICE OF THE
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Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

CA: Beware of Test Prep Scams Targeting Parents of HS Students



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is warning parents of high school students about emerging standardized test preparation scams. As graduation approaches, scammers often attempt to deceive parents into paying for illegitimate test prep services. Scammers pose as members of the College Board or other educational organizations and attempt to steal credit card information by offering fake test prep material with the promise of improving test scores.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Standardized tests can create a lot of stress for high schoolers and parents alike. In an effort to ease the burden and improve test scores, many parents purchase test prep services for their children. Unfortunately, scammers will often pose as members of educational organizations in an attempt to swindle parents—promising test prep and other helpful services with no intention of delivering a product or service. With the next round of standardized tests now underway through the summer, I want to make sure that no child or parent will have extra stress added to their lives caused by scammers selling fake promises.”

The [Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker](#) recently received several reports that scammers may have Florida students’ personal and school information—making imposter phone calls sound even more legitimate to parents. The imposter may claim that a deposit needs to be made, sometimes asking for hundreds of dollars, before test prep materials can be delivered.

To avoid test prep scams, Attorney General Moody encourages parents to follow these tips:

- Know that the College Board will not ask for passwords, bank accounts or credit card numbers by phone or email, or make unsolicited calls to students or parents;
- See if the student's school, local library or community center offers free or discounted test preparation materials;
- Check with the student's school to see if a solicitation received is legitimate and tied to a school offering as it may claim;
- Be wary of any unsolicited call, especially if the caller requests banking or other personal information;
- Do not provide banking or credit card information in response to an unsolicited call, email or social media message; and
- Pay with a credit card if possible—credit cards tend to offer greater consumer protections and are not directly tied to a checking account.

Previously, Attorney General Moody released the *Scams at a Glance: Imposter Scams* brochure to help educate Floridians about scams similar to this test prep scam. To view the brochure, click [here](#).

To access the Scams at a Glance webpage for more content related to other common and emerging scams, click [here](#).

Anyone who encounters an imposter scam, or any other type of fraud, can file a complaint with the Florida Attorney General's Office at MyFloridaLegal.com or by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM.

Two of the largest standardized tests, the SAT and the ACT, have registration deadlines approaching quickly. To find registration dates for the SAT, click [here](#). To find registration dates for the ACT, click [here](#).

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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.