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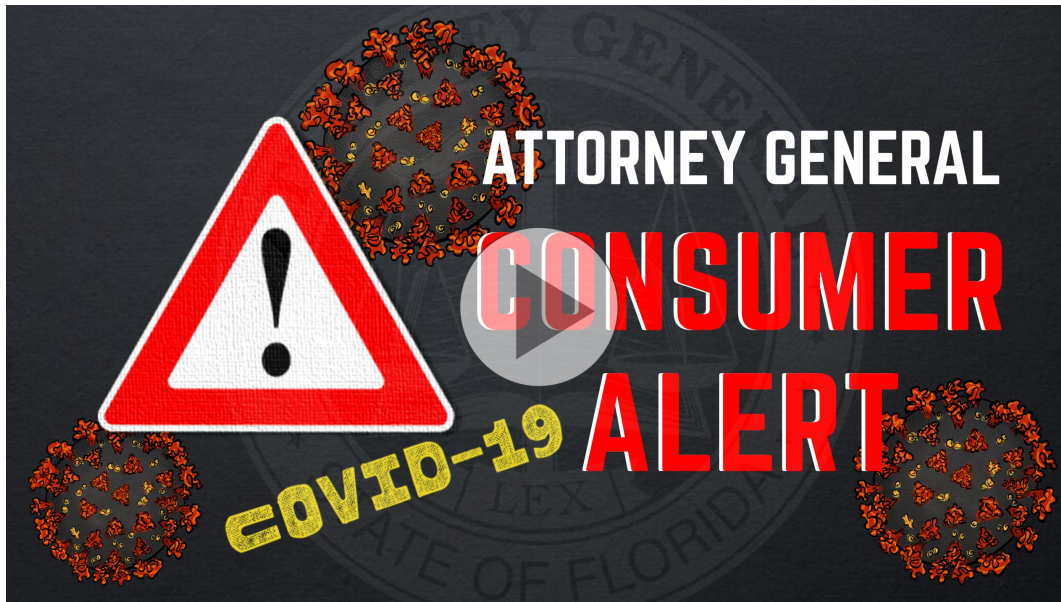
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OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF FLORIDA

Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

CA: Watch Out for Fraud as New Stimulus Payments are Distributed



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—As the federal government begins delivering additional stimulus payments across the country in the new \$166 billion stimulus package, Floridians should be wary of potential fraud related to the economic relief. Floridians are already receiving payments both through direct deposit and mailed checks. Attorney General Ashley Moody wants to make sure Floridians are prepared to spot and avoid scams related to the federal payments. Today, Attorney General Moody issued a Consumer Alert highlighting scams related to the latest stimulus payments and tips to help Floridians avoid falling prey.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “As we have seen throughout the pandemic, bad actors are looking for ways to exploit the crisis to steal money, government benefits and people’s identities. With direct payments already received or on the way to Floridians’ bank accounts, I am asking consumers to remain vigilant in their efforts to identify and avoid scams designed to steal federal payments or personal information. The best way to do this is to stay informed about how and when you will receive your stimulus payment and avoid solicitations requiring personal information, upfront payments or other actions in exchange for federal money.”

The Internal Revenue Service has until Jan. 15 to deliver the payments. For more information and frequently asked questions about direct payments, click [here](#). To contact the IRS, visit [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov). To track stimulus payments, use the IRS Get My Payment tool by clicking [here](#).

Please remember that the IRS will not call or email Floridians about stimulus payments.

Spoofing the IRS continues to be a trick used by scammers often through recorded telephone messages or imposter robocalls.

Robocalls targeting stimulus recipients could be utilized to exploit this latest round of economic relief. There are signs these calls may be increasing as Americans continue to work from home. In April of last year, Attorney General Moody issued a Consumer Alert addressing this growing problem and highlighted a few recent COVID-19 related recordings. To hear those recordings, click [here](#).

Shortly after passage of the new round of stimulus, Attorney General Moody issued a new [Scams at a Glance brochure](#) with information about common scams designed to steal federal money from Floridians in need and tips for avoiding these scams, which include the following:

- NEVER respond to text messages, emails or ads directing you to click on a link;
- NEVER provide any personal or financial information in response to an unsolicited message;
- NEVER trust caller ID displays claiming a call is from the IRS—as spoofing technology allows scammers to change phone displays to impersonate government agencies; and
- NEVER make any advance payment in order to secure or expedite access to a benefit.

To download Attorney General Moody's *Scams at a Glance: Stimulus Payment Scams* and other Scams at a Glance brochures, click [here](#).

Since the COVID-19 emergency declaration, Attorney General Moody has issued more than 30 Consumer Alerts with information about emerging scams and tips to avoid fraud. To view the latest alerts and to stay up to date on COVID-19 related scams, visit the Attorney General's Consumer Alert webpage by clicking [here](#).

For additional COVID-19 tips and resources, click [here](#).

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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](#). To view recent Consumer Alerts and for other information about avoiding scams, visit [MyFloridaLegal.com/ConsumerAlert](#).