

Date November 22, 2019

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - Nov. 22, 2019



This week is National Utility Scam Awareness Week. Utility scammers prey on unsuspecting consumers' emotions and scare them into giving up personal and financial information.

I don't want any Floridian to feel helpless against these fraudsters, so I issued tips directly to consumers this week through social media to arm them with information needed to not fall for these scams.

There are three main ways that utility scammers try to exploit consumers. First, they call threatening disconnection of utility services unless payment is made immediately using prepaid cards. Second, they claim that a utility bill was overpaid, and bank account information is needed to facilitate a refund. Finally, they could come to the door impersonating a utility worker to gain entry into your home.

While this is not an exhaustive list of all the methods these fraudsters use, the following tips will help you discern if you are speaking with a legitimate utility company or a scammer.

Remember, utility representatives will never call to demand payment over the phone or request prepaid debit cards for bill payment. If you receive a call that you believe is from a utility company and want to confirm the validity, hang up and then

call the company directly to see if it is a legitimate request.

It is also a good rule of thumb to never give out or confirm personal information to anyone initiating contact, whether by phone, in-person or email, claiming to be a utility representative. Additionally, never let someone you do not personally know into your home.

My office is here to help you. Report fraud to my office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or visiting [MyFloridaLegal.com](https://www.MyFloridaLegal.com).

By working together and reporting scams, you help us build a safer, stronger Florida.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

In The News

Helpful tips to avoid being a victim of fraud, WKRG Pensacola

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Fraud Prevention Tips for International Fraud Awareness Week: AG Ashley Moody, Space Coast Daily

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Honorable Ashley Moody is the first working mom to sit in the office of Attorney General, FOX 13 Tampa

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Ashley Moody spotlights opioid death decline, Florida Politics

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Cutting through smoke of Florida's vaping laws, WFLA Tampa

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104 Arrested During Hillsborough Human Trafficking Operation, WUSF Public Media

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Protecting Floridians

Attorney General Moody Convenes Second Meeting of the Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse as Opioid-Related Deaths Decline



Attorney General Ashley Moody, Chair of the Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse, convened the group's second meeting. The meeting comes as the latest Florida Medical Examiners Report shows opioid-related deaths declined 10 percent last year—marking more than 600 fewer deaths than the previous year.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "While the decline in opioid-related deaths is encouraging, we will not take our foot off the gas. My office is fighting the opioid crisis on multiple fronts—on the streets busting drug traffickers to the courtroom holding major opioid distributors, manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies responsible for their roles in this crisis. This Task Force is another key component of this monumental struggle to end opioid abuse and save lives, and we will continue to tirelessly pursue new measures to help bolster our ongoing efforts to end this crisis ravaging our state." [Read More](#)

Events

This week, Attorney General Ashley Moody held the second meeting of the Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse at Saint Leo University in Pasco County. To watch the full meeting, click [here](#).



Attorney General Moody attended the Missing Children's Day ceremony at the state capitol. During the ceremony, the Attorney General's Capital Appeals Victim Advocate Michelle Johnson received the FDLE Evelyn Williams Memorial Award for her work with family members of crime victims in Florida.



Attorney General Moody pictured with St. Petersburg Police Detective Christina Kenney. Detective Kenney received FDLE's Combatting Human Trafficking Award during the Missing Children's Day ceremony at the state capitol.



Attorney General Moody with Walton County Sheriff Michael Adkinson and Gracepoint Wellness CEO Joseph Rutherford talking about improving mental health in the criminal justice system, with Sarasota County Judge Erika Quartermaine on the phone.



Attorney General Moody at a Thanksgiving luncheon with team members of the Attorney General's Citizen Services Division.



Attorney General Moody congratulating Senior Assistant Attorney General Ellen Gwynn for her service to the Attorney General's Office. Gwynn works in the Attorney General's Opinions Division, responsible for researching and writing legal opinions for the Attorney General's Office. Gwynn will be retiring later this month.

