

Date September 04, 2020

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - Sept. 4, 2020



This week, we marked a huge milestone in our mission to protect consumers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since activating Florida's Price Gouging Hotline in March to take reports of extreme price increases related to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Rapid Response Team has recovered more than a million dollars for consumers. We couldn't have secured these refunds and credits without your help, but our efforts are far from over. Florida remains under a state of emergency and price gouging on essential commodities related to the pandemic is still against the law.

Our Rapid Response Team continues to aggressively pursue allegations of extreme price increases, and we will do everything under the authority of this office to stop scammers from exploiting this crisis to take advantage of Floridians.

So please, if you suspect price gouging or any other COVID-19 related scam, let us know. You can contact our office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM, visiting [MyFloridaLegal.com](https://www.myfloridalegal.com) or downloading our Price Gouging Reporting App—NO SCAM.

Thank you for your help on this critical mission to protect Floridians. By working

together to stop fraud and scams, we will build a Stronger, Safer Florida.



In The News

Over \$1 million in Florida recovered from price gouging, robocalls, and census scams in crackdown, Sun Sentinel

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Florida Attorney General Recovers More Than \$1 Million From COVID-19 Scams, Purchases, NorthEscambia.com

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Moody recovers more than \$1 Million for consumers amid Covid-19 scams, The Capitolist

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Woman arrested for defrauding Medicaid out of more than \$6,500, WBBH Fort Myers

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US Marshals rescue 25 missing Ohio children in past 20 days, some recovered as far away as Miami, FOX 13 Tampa Bay

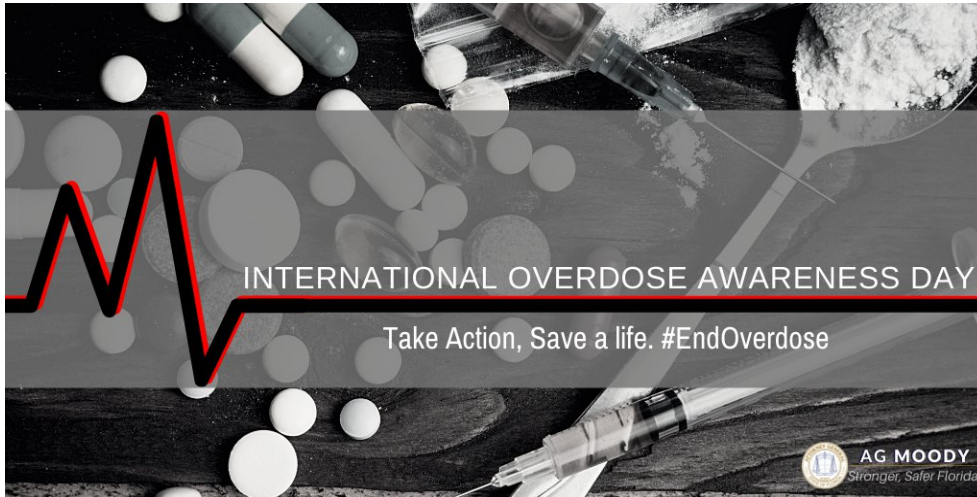
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Apopka City Hall will light up all week to honor fallen law enforcement heroes, Apopka Voice

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Protecting Floridians

Attorney General Moody Sponsors Resolution Recognizing International Overdose Awareness Day



Attorney General Ashley Moody presented a resolution to Project Save Lives recognizing Aug. 31 as International Overdose Awareness Day. International Overdose Awareness Day is dedicated to raising awareness of drug overdose, reducing the stigma surrounding drug-related deaths and remembering those who died or suffered due to drug overdose. The resolution was signed by Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet before Attorney General Moody presented it to PSL.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “I am honored to sponsor this important resolution bringing awareness to the opioid epidemic that took nearly 68,000 lives in 2018 alone. As Florida’s Attorney General and the Chair of the Statewide Task Force on Opioid Abuse, I’m working tirelessly to combat this deadly crisis, and I have remained steadfast in my commitment to provide information, resources and support for all of those affected by drug abuse. With new data suggesting a spike in overdoses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must remain vigilant in our fight.

“I am grateful for community-based programs like Project Save Lives that support those struggling with substance abuse. They have been a beacon of hope to many who suffer from addiction and have made a great impact in helping people get on the road to recovery. It is an honor to present them with this resolution.” [Read More](#)



Attorney

General Ashley Moody is taking action to stop minors vaping and asking parents to talk to their children about the dangers of underage e-cigarette use as students resume in-person learning. Concerns surrounding underage vaping are heightened as the world continues to fight the spread of COVID19—a deadly virus that attacks the respiratory system.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “We are engaged in a war against a virus that attacks the respiratory system, but even before this battle began, an epidemic of underage vaping was harming the lungs of school-age children. That is why it is more important, now than ever before, that we do everything we can to stop underage vaping and protect the health of our children.

“Not only am I Florida’s Attorney General, I am also a mother. So, while my office continues to investigate and litigate against companies marketing vaping products to minors, I want to reach out directly to parents like me and urge them to talk to their children about the dangers of underage vaping. Talk to them about peer pressure and addiction. Tell them it is okay to say no to vaping—this small stance could save them from a lifetime of nicotine addiction or permanently damaged lungs.” [Read More](#)

Behavior Analyst Arrested for Defrauding Medicaid Out of More Than \$6,500



Attorney General Ashley Moody's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, with the assistance of the Polk County Sheriff's Office, arrested a behavior analyst for defrauding the Medicaid program out of more than \$6,500. Wendy Lynn Borden is employed by a Medicaid provider in Monroe County and provides behavior analyst services to Medicaid recipients. Borden is accused of falsifying progress notes and sign-in logs in order to be paid for services not rendered.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Medicaid recipients depend on the care and services provided by behavior analysts. This medical professional falsified documents, deprived recipients of necessary care—and ripped off taxpayer dollars in the process. I'm grateful to my Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for investigating this fraudulent activity and stopping this scheme." [Read More](#)

Attorney General Moody Urges Floridians to Remain Vigilant as Florida Recognizes 2020 National Preparedness Month



Attorney General Ashley Moody is asking Floridians to remain vigilant as the 2020 National Preparedness Month begins and we enter the peak of the hurricane season. National Preparedness Month is recognized in September as a way of promoting family and community disaster planning to ensure Floridians are as fully prepared as possible during this time. As the world continues to fight the spread of COVID-19 and tropical systems continue to threaten Florida, Attorney General Moody is asking Floridians to reevaluate their preparedness plans and review the Attorney General's 2020 Hurricane Guide.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "As a fifth generation Floridian, I know Floridians to be strong, resilient people, but that does not negate our need to prepare. Florida is experiencing an extremely active hurricane season with 16 named storms already this year and potentially the worst still to come. If you haven't taken measures to protect your family and property from a hurricane strike, or even if you prepared months ago, take a moment in recognition of National Preparedness Month to make sure you have the supplies you will need should disaster strike where you live." [Read More](#)