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Florida Attorney General's Office News Release VIDEO CONSUMER ALERT: Jury Duty Scams on the Rise



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is issuing a Consumer Alert warning Floridians about an increase in jury duty scams. In these scams, an imposter will call a target about missing jury duty, then threaten the potential victim with jail time if a fine is not paid. A recent news report from Miami-Dade County states that authorities there are seeing an alarming number of jury duty scams.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "This scam is so troubling because the scammer on the phone will threaten a victim with potential jail time if a fine is not paid. Floridians should know that failing to report for jury duty is not grounds for immediate arrest, and court officials will never demand payment over the phone. By being aware of how to avoid this increasingly common scam, we can build a Stronger, Safer Florida."

To avoid jury duty scams, Floridians should know that:

- A jury duty summons will never be delivered over the phone; it will always come via mail.
 Also, officials will not call regarding a summons if a person did not receive a summons in the mail:
- Court officials will not demand payment over the phone, nor ask that payment be wired or made through a gift card. A tell-tale sign of a jury scam is a caller aggressively demanding payment;

- Personal or financial information should never be given to strangers, especially over the phone;
- Caller IDs may be spoofed to appear to be coming from a law enforcement agency or other government entity, so be cautious of caller ID—even if it looks like a real source; and
- If there is a valid jury duty issue, contact a local court clerk's office directly.

<u>The Florida Bar</u> reminds Floridians to be cautious over the phone and remember that an authentic jury summons will only ever come in the mail from the United States Postal Service.

Report suspected jury duty scams to law enforcement, as well as to the local county clerk's office using the <u>Florida Clerks website</u>. Anyone who may encounter an imposter trying to orchestrate a jury duty scam can file a complaint with the Florida Attorney General's Office online at <u>MyFloridaLegal.com</u> or by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM.

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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.