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Contact Kylie Mason

Phone (850) 245-0150



OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF FLORIDA

Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

VIDEO CONSUMER ALERT: Attorney General Moody Warns Floridians About Tax Debt Relief Scams as Part of 2024 Tax Season Scam Series



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—In the second installment of the 2024 Tax Season Scam Series, Attorney General Ashley Moody is warning Floridians about tax debt relief scams. The Internal Revenue Service reported that [more than 18 million taxpayers owed more than \\$300 billion in overdue taxes](#) in 2022. Scammers may attempt to trick those owing taxes with promises of exceedingly low-cost tax debt relief programs. Attorney General Moody is issuing tips to help Floridians avoid scams.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Tax debt relief scams prey on the stress that often accompanies tax season for those who owe the IRS. These bad actors will reach out in any way possible: texts, phone calls, emails, letters—all to try and trick consumers into believing a tax expert is interested in helping them get out of a difficult situation, when really the scammer is interested in the victim’s personal or financial information. That’s why I’m offering tips to Floridians to avoid these scams.”

In a tax debt relief scheme, scammers will attempt to contact individuals through emails, letters, phone calls or text messages, claiming to have a special program or insider knowledge that allows for negotiations with the IRS on behalf of the taxpayer. The fraudsters may promise to settle tax debts for pennies on the dollar, often using high-pressure tactics to coerce victims into

immediate action.

Attorney General Moody offers the following tips to help Floridians avoid falling victim to tax debt relief scams:

- **Attempt to Resolve Tax Debt with IRS First:** call the IRS directly and ask about collection alternatives. Taxpayers may be eligible for a monthly payment plan or to pay less than the amount owed;
- **Verify the Legitimacy of a Company:** Before engaging with any offer for tax relief services, research the company thoroughly. Check for complaints, online reviews and verify credentials with [relevant regulatory bodies](#);
- **Beware of Unsolicited Communications:** The IRS will never initiate contact through emails, phone calls or text messages;
- **Avoid Providing Personal Information:** Never share sensitive information with unknown individuals or companies; and
- **Consult with a Trusted Tax Professional:** Seek guidance from a qualified tax professional or attorney for a second opinion about potential tax relief offers.

To find professional tax preparers credentialed with the IRS, search the Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications by clicking [here](#).

To follow along with the 2024 Tax Season Scam Series, Floridians can subscribe to [@AGAshleyMoody on X](#), or to the Florida Attorney General's Office [YouTube channel](#).

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