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Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

VIDEO CA: Lookout for Last-Minute Holiday Shopping Scams



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is warning Floridians making last-minute gift purchases to be on the lookout for scams. The rush to purchase presents before Christmas can provide opportunities for scammers trying to take advantage of last-minute buying. The Federal Bureau of Investigation recently released [tips for last-minute shoppers](#)—echoing previous warnings from Attorney General Moody.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “The last-minute buying frenzy before Christmas can create opportunities for scammers trying to steal your holiday cheer. Be extra cautious while you shop and follow a few smart-shopping tips I am releasing for Floridians looking to finish their shopping list before Santa makes his rounds.”

Attorney General Moody previously covered many of the scams and consumer tips highlighted in the FBI’s recent warning. Below is a list of a few safety steps from the Attorney General’s Consumer Alerts:

- [Use a credit card](#), instead of a debit card, when shopping online. Credit cards allow consumers to dispute a charge more easily if an item never arrives or a fraudulent charge occurs;
- [Know that credible businesses will not demand payment via gift card](#)—this is always a scam;
- [Be careful using cryptocurrency](#), as the volatile market attracts opportunistic scammers;

- [Check bank and credit card statements regularly](#) to ensure there are no fraudulent charges or withdrawals;
- [Never provide personal or financial information](#) to anyone that you do not know; and
- [Create strong passwords](#) to protect against identity theft, hackers and online fraud.

Additionally, the FBI provides tips about buying from reputable websites and being wary of too-good-to-be-true deals. These tips are covered in Attorney General Moody's [2021 Holiday Consumer Protection Guide](#), which also contains more information about safe online shopping, how to avoid charity-related scams and a list of recalled items for consumers to stay wary of.

To access the guide in English, click [here](#).

To access the guide in Spanish, click [here](#).

Another safe-shopping resource for Floridians to use while finishing last-minute shopping is *Scams at a Glance: 'Tis the Season*—a brochure full of tips consumers should consider to help protect personal and financial information during the holiday season.

To view *Scams at a Glance: 'Tis the Season*, click [here](#).

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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](https://www.myfloridalegal.com).