

Date April 10, 2020

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - April 10, 2020



With more Floridians than ever before working from home and holding virtual meetings, a new trend called Zoombombing is emerging. This week, I issued a Consumer Alert to warn Floridians of this new threat to online privacy. Zoombombing occurs when hackers hijack internet video conferences, like those offered by the fast-growing platform Zoom. These hackers often present inappropriate or offensive material or otherwise disrupt the conference.

It is not a joke and what is even more concerning is children are susceptible to this privacy hack as students are now using video conferencing to learn virtually in order to stop the spread of COVID-19—students like my very own son.

Thankfully, there are steps you can take to increase privacy and prevent Zoombombing. Steps like:

- Create separate passwords for each virtual meeting;
- Establish a Zoom waiting room for meeting participants;

- Lockdown the meeting once everyone invited to attend has joined; and
- Do not publicly post meeting links on social media or any other public forum.

Zoom also offers privacy setting for an additional level of protection. To enable the extra security features, hosts should click on the settings menu, scroll down to “screen sharing,” find “who can share?” Then click on “host only.” Save the changes.

My Office has reached out to Zoom to learn more about its encryption efforts and other proactive steps the company is taking to better protect users.

These are just some of the steps we are taking to protect Floridians as we work together to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. For a more comprehensive list visit MyFloridaLegal.com.

Stay safe, 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 tail.

In The News

Coronavirus Impact: Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office Offers Recommendations Against Zoombombing, CBS Miami

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Attorney General Ashley Moody warns of 'Zoombombing' during COVID-19 crisis, WWSB Sarasota

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'Zoombombing': Florida Attorney General Warns About Latest Online Threat, NBC Miami

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How to protect your Zoom calls from hackers, WKMG Orlando

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Florida Attorney General Urging Floridians To Report Price Gouging, Crack Down In Full Swing, WFSU Public Media

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Attorney General Ashley Moody issues statement on price gouging during COVID-19 pandemic, WWSB Sarasota

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Ashley Moody says nearly 60 subpoenas have been issued for alleged price gouging during coronavirus outbreak, Florida Politics

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Attorney General Continues Coronavirus Price Gouging Crackdown, NorthEscambia.com

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Florida Attorney General's price gouging hotline has been ringing nonstop for the past three weeks, according to the office., ABC Action News

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Florida Attorney General pressures Suntime convenience store selling high-priced masks, Florida Today

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Face masks pulled from Brevard gas station after complaints of price gouging, WESH Orlando

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'No hoarding': Ashley Moody's plea to Floridians, retailers, Florida Politics

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How the Florida Attorney General is protecting seniors from COVID-19 scams, WBBH Fort Myers

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Ashley Moody: Efforts to Crack Down on Coronavirus Price Gouging Resulted in More than \$130k in Refunds, Florida Daily

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Protecting Floridians



Attorney

General Ashley Moody's Consumer Protection Division is aggressively fighting price gouging, and to further deter the illegal practice, the Attorney General is asking more Florida retailers to limit per customer sales of essential commodities and other scarce products. Attorney General Moody today via a conference call spoke with members of the Florida Retail Federation to thank stores already taking steps to prevent hoarding and encourage even more participation in these crucial efforts.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "We are aggressively fighting price gouging and asking Florida retailers to help us in this battle. One way we prevent outrageous price increases is by preventing the purchase of excessive amounts of essential commodities, which can temporarily clear retail shelves and provide unscrupulous individuals with the opportunity to sell for astronomical prices the large quantities of high-demand products they may be allowed to purchase." [Read More](#)

Attorney General Moody Works with Florida's Senior Groups to Protect Older Floridians from COVID-19 Scams

Attorney General Ashley Moody and leading senior organizations are joining forces to protect older Floridians from COVID-19 related scams. Attorney General Moody, American Association of Retired Persons, Association of Mature American Citizens, American Seniors Association and the Florida Council on Aging today met virtually to discuss emerging scams designed to target older Floridians amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Seniors are uniquely vulnerable to COVID-19 and to scams designed to exploit the fear surrounding the pandemic to rip off Floridians. That is why we are working with the top senior groups in Florida to make sure older Floridians have the resources necessary to avoid falling prey to these fraudsters. I want to thank these groups for the work they are doing to stay on top of emerging scams and keep their members informed." [Read More](#)

STOP CORONAVIRUS SCAMS IN THEIR TRACKS

In the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, scammers and con artists are finding new ways to prey on consumers. It's more important than ever to exercise extreme vigilance. Don't let scammers add to the challenges we all face as a result of this pandemic.

UNSUBSTANTIATED DISINFECTANT CLAIMS

From cleaning products to air conditioning filters and duct sprays, scammers are making unsubstantiated claims about the ability of their products to kill the virus or disinfect surfaces. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) offers tips on how to best disinfect different surfaces at [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers a list of known disinfectants at [EPA.gov/coronavirus](https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus).

TREATMENT, VACCINE, AND CURE CLAIMS


Con artists are preying on consumer health concerns by touting fake Coronavirus immunity boosters, treatments, vaccines, and cures. Know that there is no vaccine or cure identified or approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at this time. Seek guidance on health claims from the CDC at [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) or the Florida Department of Health at [FloridaHealth.gov/covid19](https://www.floridahealth.gov/covid19). Call 9-1-1 in a medical emergency or seek the advice of a licensed medical professional for non-emergency medical care.

SHAM AT-HOME TESTING KITS


Scammers are offering Coronavirus home testing kits through unsolicited calls and text messages, websites, and social media posts. Know that there is currently no home testing kit for Coronavirus approved by the FDA. To request testing, call your county health department. Find their contact information at [FloridaHealth.gov/all-county-locations.html](https://www.floridahealth.gov/all-county-locations.html).

FEDERAL STIMULUS SCAMS

Even before the stimulus checks were final, scammers were already trying to con consumers out of this federal benefit. Know that the federal government does not require consumers to make a purchase or pay up-front fees to claim or expedite the availability of a federal benefit. The stimulus checks require no action on the consumer's part.



Attorney General
Ashley Moody



Office of the Attorney General
PL-01 The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
[MyFloridaLegal.com](https://www.MyFloridaLegal.com)