

Stimulus Payments and Nursing Homes

The Attorney General's Office received reports that nursing homes and assisted living facilities were seizing Economic Impact Payments of residents, particularly those receiving care through Medicaid.

Tips related to stimulus payments for assisted living residents include:

- These payments are classified as tax credits, not as a federal benefit, and are allocated to the individual payees named on the checks, not the facilities caring for them;
- The stimulus payments are not counted as income under Medicaid rules and do not count as a Medicaid resource for 12 months; and
- If not spent within 12 months, the payments are considered a Medicaid resource and could affect Medicaid eligibility or may be claimed by the facility.

Anyone who encounters a stimulus payment scam, or any other type of COVID-19 fraud, should contact the Florida Attorney General's Office at www.MyFloridaLegal.com or at 1-866-9-NO-SCAM.

Florida Attorney General's Office Scams at a Glance: Stimulus Payment Scams

Visit MyFloridaLegal.com to find consumer tips or to file a complaint. By remaining vigilant and informed, savvy consumers can help us build a Stronger, Safer Florida.

**Report fraud by calling
1-866-9-NO-SCAM
(1-866-966-7226)**

View other Scams at a Glance
resources at:

MyFloridaLegal.com/ScamsAtAGlance

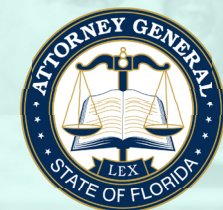
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Revised 2-2025

Scams at a Glance:

Stimulus Payment Scams



OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF FLORIDA

Even before the Economic Impact Payments were finalized, scammers were already trying to con consumers out of their federal stimulus payments.

Do not fall for these Stimulus Scams.

Stimulus payment scams may look like:



An unsolicited message via text or email that asks recipients to click a link to “verify” their information;



A phone call from someone claiming to be from the U.S. Department of Treasury or Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requesting private banking information;



Messages that claim to grant extra federal funds to ensure recipients stay home and isolate;



Mailers with phony stimulus checks that must be cashed by making a purchase with a specific retailer; or



Offers that claim to expedite access to or grant additional federal benefits if an up-front fee is paid.



...STOP STIMULUS SCAMS IN THEIR TRACKS...

- Check eligibility or the status of an Economic Impact Payment with the IRS directly at www.IRS.gov/Coronavirus or by calling **1-800-829-1040**;
- Know that the federal government does not require consumers to make a purchase in order to access a federal benefit or cash a federal check;
- Know that the federal government is not contacting people and offering them grants to stay home and stop the spread of COVID-19;
- Never click on links sent in unsolicited messages, whether received via text, email or social media. These links could contain malware or connect the consumer to a website set up to obtain personal or financial information for nefarious purposes;
- Do not trust the name and number listed on Caller ID. Spoofing technology allows scammers to change phone displays to impersonate government agencies;
- Never provide personal or financial information in response to an unsolicited message or call;
- Be wary of anyone that says they can expedite the availability of stimulus funds for a fee – at best, this is a short-term loan offer, at worst it may be an outright scam;
- Remember that a person making contact and urgently requesting an up-front payment, especially through wire transfer, prepaid credit cards, bitcoin or gift cards, is a red flag of a scam; and
- Look out for messages and websites that contain typos, incorrect spelling, grammatical errors or awkward phrasing as these may be indications that the messages are from an imposter.