

Tips to Avoid Gift Card Scams

- Know that no legitimate company or government agency will require payment via gift cards. If someone claims otherwise, it is a scam.
- Never send gift cards in response to a solicitation.
- Avoid sharing card numbers or PINs.
- Never send a gift card to a solicitor claiming a loved one is in trouble.
- Do not deposit checks received from unknown individuals, especially if they request repayment via gift card.
- Purchase gift cards directly from the card's merchant, don't use little-known, third-party sites.
- Inspect cards before buying in-person — look carefully at the packaging for any tears, wrinkles or other indications of tampering.

Report Scams

Consumers can report gift card fraud to the Federal Trade Commission at ReportFraud.FTC.gov.

File a complaint with Attorney General Moody's office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or visiting MyFloridaLegal.com.

If money is lost, also report it to local law enforcement.

Florida Attorney General's Office Scams at a Glance:

Gift Card Grifters

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)

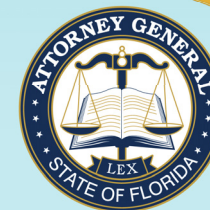
View other Scams at a Glance resources at:

MyFloridaLegal.com/ScamsAtAGlance



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Scams at a Glance: Gift Card Grifters



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Gift cards are popular among consumers for being a versatile present. Gift cards also provide opportunities for scammers who may use them in various schemes to steal money. If gift card grifters obtain the numbers and codes on the back of a preloaded card, they can redeem the value and remain virtually undetected.

Gift card grifters use many tactics to exploit consumers, so it is important to be on guard. Know that any unsolicited calls purporting to be a government agency, tech support company, or other entity requesting payment via gift card are a scam.

Consumers should also be vigilant when purchasing gift cards. Scammers may set up fraudulent websites selling the cards for popular retailers at steep discounts to get victims' financial information. Additionally, fraudsters may record gift card numbers and PINs from cards in a store. Then, when the card is activated, the scammers can redeem the value before the victim gets a chance to use the card.

TYPES OF SCAMS

Payment Schemes

Scammers impersonate government agencies, utilities, tech support, online romantic partners, family members or others and request payment or gifts via a preloaded card.

Signs include:

- An unsolicited, urgent call claiming something bad will happen if payment is not received immediately.
- The caller directing the target to buy a specific gift card and potentially staying on the phone while the victim goes to the store to make the purchase.
- Scammers may send a victim a check for more money than expected, and then direct the victim to deposit it and pay the difference back via a gift card. The check is fake, and the victim will lose the money spent on the gift card.

Fake or Compromised Cards

Fraudsters may create websites and advertise gift cards for popular retailers at steep discounts. These sites may be operated to steal victims' financial information.

Consumers should be vigilant when buying a physical gift card as well. Thieves are known to record the numbers associated with cards on display. If a victim buys one of these cards, scammers have access to the money placed on the gift card.

Signs include:

- Gift cards appearing to be tampered with in the store.
- Missing protective film designed to hide card numbers and codes.
- Steep discounts on cards listed on a third-party website or online marketplaces.

