Date February 23, 2024

Attorney General Moody's Week in Review - Feb. 23, 2024



This week, we warned Floridians about digital check manipulation scams, commonly called check cooking. Fraudsters are digitally altering stolen checks to fill their own bank accounts while draining those of victims.

In this scheme, fraudsters take photos of stolen checks and use digital tools to alter critical information, such as the payee’s name and payment amount, and then cash the forgeries.

Recently, my Cyber Fraud Enforcement Unit assisted law enforcement in an investigation involving a Tampa man who manipulated checks. He stole more than $50,000 from victims and now faces 30 years in prison.

To guard against digital check manipulation, here are some tips to follow:

- Empty your mailbox regularly and talk to trusted neighbors to help keep a watchful eye to prevent the theft of sensitive documents;

- Consistently look at bank and financial statements for unauthorized and suspicious transactions;
- Beware of unexpected delays in receiving mailed checks—this could indicate potential tampering or theft; and
- Talk to your financial institutions about using e-checks to make payments online, rather than risk sending a physical check.

To learn more about digital check manipulation schemes, visit MyFloridaLegal.com/ConsumerAlert.

By staying up to date on emerging types of fraud, you can avoid falling victim and help us build a Stronger, Safer Florida.



In The News

Florida AG raises alarm on 'check cooking' after Tampa arrest, FOX 13 Tampa Bay

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Moody Warns Floridians About Digital Check Manipulation Scheme, Florida Daily

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WATCH: Ashley Moody Says "Check Cooking" Could Cook Your Bank Account, WIOD Radio Florida News

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Florida Attorney General Files Charges Against Thieves Operating Retail Theft Ring, West Orlando News

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Another retail theft group charged by Moody's office, The Center Square Florida

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Florida Attorney General Moody secures 30-year prison sentence for real estate investment fraudster, Insurance Newsnet

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3 men charged with operating theft ring of more than $100,000 from Home Depots, NBC 5 West Palm Beach

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Trio accused of $100k organized retail theft at Home Depots in 11 Florida counties, WEAR-TV Pensacola

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Attorney General Moody Secures 25-Year Prison Sentence for Latin King Gang Member in Massive Cartel Drug Ring, Legal Newsline

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Florida Fentanyl Dealer Charged with Manslaughter, Florida Daily

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Protecting Floridians

Attorney General Moody Files Criminal Charges Against Three Thieves Operating Retail Theft Ring Stealing More Than $100,000



In a three-year period, the group stole 281 buckets of Henry 887 Tropi-Cool roof sealer in more than 25 theft incidents from Home Depot stores throughout 11 counties in South and Central Florida.

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Attorney General Moody's Statewide Prosecutors Charge Fentanyl Dealer with Manslaughter



Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution is charging a drug dealer peddling fentanyl along the Treasure Coast with manslaughter.

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Attorney General Moody Secures 25-Year Prison Sentence for Latin King Gang Member in Massive Cartel Drug Ring



Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution secured a 25-year prison sentence for a Latin King gang member for participating in a massive drug trafficking organization.

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Events

This week, Attorney General Ashley Moody spoke to Leadership Tampa in the Florida House of Representatives chamber.



Attorney General Moody with the Planty City Youth Leadership Commission’s inaugural class in Tallahassee.



Attorney General Moody speaking at the Gathering in Gilchrist event to show support for Florida law enforcement.



Attorney General Moody with Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson and Gilchrist County Sheriff Robby Schultz at Gathering in Gilchrist.

