

Dec 27, 2021

Contact Kylie Mason

Phone 850-245-0150



OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF FLORIDA

Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

VIDEO CA: Robotexts Surpass Robocalls as the Most Prevalent Form of Scam Messaging to Americans



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today issued a Consumer Alert warning Floridians of the rise in robotexts. Robotexts have existed for a while, but with Americans on track to receive [86 billion automated text messages nationwide this year](#), robotexts are now more prevalent than robocalls. Americans are projected to receive 71 billion robotexts in 2021. Based off recent trends, Floridians alone are expected to get [nearly 5 billion robotexts this year](#), making Florida one of the most spam-texted states in the nation.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “These automated text messages are now more prevalent, and potentially more dangerous, than robocalls since malicious links can be clicked on directly in a text. These links often contain malware that can be instantly downloaded to a phone. Any interaction with this type of text will show the scammer that the phone number is active, making the targeted user vulnerable to further messages. Consumers should be wary of opening or clicking links in unrecognized texts.”

The Federal Trade Commission runs the National Do Not Call Registry—a list that a citizen can sign up for to help eliminate telemarketing texts and calls to a phone. Signing up for the registry allows a citizen to [report unwanted calls to the FTC](#) after being on the list for 31 days. Violators, or those who call someone on the National Do Not Call List, can be fined [per call](#). Register by visiting [DoNotCall.gov](#) or calling 1 (888) 382-1222.

To avoid falling victim to illegal robotexts, Attorney General Moody recommends following these

tips:

- Avoid answering texts from unrecognized numbers. Interacting with these messages shows the scammer that the targeted user is active and will lead to more frequent scam messages;
- Do not click on links in text messages from unknown numbers as they often contain malware or lead to malicious websites;
- Consider downloading text and call blocking apps to further prevent these scam texts from reaching a phone; and
- Know suspicious text messages from a five to six-digit short code telephone number may be a scam, unless the sender has registered the number in the [U.S. Short Code Directory](#) and the content of the message matches the registrant.

Report scam robotexts and robocalls to the Federal Trade Commission by clicking [here](#).

Attorney General Moody recently [led an effort](#) to stop illegal robocallers from misusing legitimate phone numbers. Fifty other attorneys general signed on with Attorney General Moody to support the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to prevent scammers from circumventing previously implemented anti-robocall technology by initiating stricter reviewing and monitoring of phone companies.

In October, Attorney General Moody compiled a statement of progress in the fight against illegal robocalls. To find out more about the fight against scam robocalls, click [here](#).