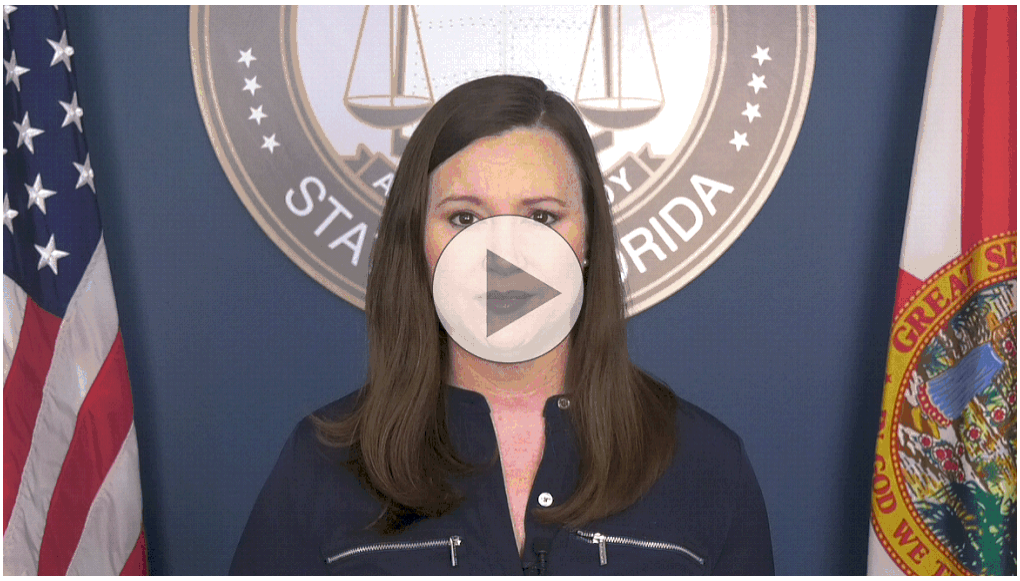
Date July 09, 2020

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



During these unprecedented times brought on by COVID-19, many are feeling anxious and uncertain about their finances.

In response to the financial hardship related to the pandemic, the three national credit reporting agencies—Equifax, Experian and Transunion—are offering consumers free weekly access to their credit reports through April 2021.

I encourage all Floridians to take advantage of this offer to better manage finances and protect credit health. Regularly reviewing these reports will keep you current on information that is being reported about your personal payment history, and alert you to any inaccuracies affecting your credit score—so immediate action can be taken to address any issues.

To receive your free weekly credit reports, visit AnnualCreditReport.com.

You can also take the following steps to further protect your credit during the coronavirus pandemic:

If you currently owe any companies money, contact each company and ask if there

is a payment plan or option to postpone payments;

Regularly examine your credit reports to confirm accuracy and ensure no fraudulent accounts have been established; and

If you spot fraudulent accounts, inaccuracies or oversights, alert the credit reporting agencies directly to file a dispute.

You can also report fraudulent activity to my office by calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or visiting MyFloridaLegal.com.

I hope these tips and resources prove useful as we navigate these uncertain times and work together to build a Stronger, Safer Florida.



In The News

Three national credit reporting agencies offering free weekly credit reports, WINK News

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Hope Hospice agrees to pay $3.2 million to settle ‘False Claims Act’ liability, WINK News

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Certified nursing assistant accused of exploiting disabled patient, NBC 2 Fort Myers

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Polk County nursing assistant accused of exploiting an adult with disabilities, WTSP Tampa Bay

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Protecting Floridians

Certified Nursing Assistant Arrested for Exploitation of a Disabled Adult



Attorney General Ashley Moody announced an arrest by the Winter Haven Police Department of a Polk County licensed certified nursing assistant for exploitation of a disabled adult. The arrest follows an investigation by Attorney General Moody's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit that revealed Jacqueline Bing financially exploited a disabled adult and Medicaid recipient by remaining as the Social Security representative payee after the vulnerable adult left Bing's care.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "It is infuriating that a medical professional trusted to care for the well-being of a fellow Floridian would deliberately exploit their patient for ill-gotten financial gains. I am sickened that this patient was abandoned and left homeless as a result of the caretaker's criminal activity. My office will continue working to ensure the proper safety and care of vulnerable citizens who depend on the Medicaid program." Read More

Hope Hospice Agrees To Pay $3.2 Million To Settle False Claims Act Liability



Attorney

General Ashley Moody and United States Attorney Maria Chapa Lopez announced that Hope Hospice has agreed to pay the United States $3.2 million to resolve allegations that it knowingly submitted false claims to Medicare, Medicaid, and TRICARE for hospice care provided to beneficiaries who did not qualify for the service. Founded in 1979, Hope Hospice is a subsidiary of Hope Healthcare. Hope Healthcare is a not-for-profit organization that provides a variety of programs for the elderly in Lee, Hendry, and Glades Counties, including hospice and palliative care services.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “Hospice care has brought peace of mind and reduced suffering for so many Floridians and their families. It is vital that we ensure this compassionate health care service is not exploited and that Medicaid recipients nearing the end of their journey are able to access these end-of-life resources to help bring dignity and peace to those with terminal illnesses. I am proud to work with our federal partners to preserve the integrity of hospice care in Florida.” Read More