**Date** November 20, 2020

## Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - Nov. 20, 2020




As long as COVID-19 remains a threat, scammers will attempt every trick in the book to exploit taxpayers and coerce them into disclosing personal information. Now, there is another emerging COVID-19 text scam that deceives recipients into disclosing personal banking information in order to receive a $1,200 stimulus check. This latest scam impersonates the Internal Revenue Service. The scam text message states the recipient received a $1,200 direct deposit from COVID-19 TREAS FUND and requires further action for the payment to be deposited into the account. The text then directs the recipient to follow a fake phishing link.

The bogus phishing URL appears to be a state agency or relief organization’s website. However, when clicked, the URL directs recipients to a website fraudulently impersonating the IRS.

Remember, the federal government and state agencies will never require personal banking information to be disclosed via text message to receive stimulus payments. They also will never send unsolicited texts or emails requesting personal

information, call with threats of jail, lawsuits or demand tax payments.

Those who receive this text should immediately report it to the IRS by sending a screenshot of the message to Phishing@IRS.gov with the following information:

- Date, time and time zone the text message was received;
- The 10-digit phone number that sent the text; and
- The recipient's mobile phone number.

I encourage all Floridians to familiarize themselves with emerging COVID-19 scams, available on our COVID-19 resource webpage at MyFloridaLegal.com/COVID19.

If you receive any correspondence you believe to be fraudulent, report it to the Attorney General's Office by visiting MyFloridaLegal.com, calling 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or downloading the No Scam app, available in English and Spanish, on all Apple and Android devices.



## In The News

**Ashley Moody Warns Floridians About COVID-19 Related Text Scam, Florida Daily**

Read More

**Consumer Alert: Beware of COVID-19 texting scam, WJXT Jacksonville**

Read More

**Attorney General Moody announces $113M agreement with Apple over iPhone throttling, WINK News**

Read More

**‘Beyond vile’: Gibsonton man gets life in prison for molesting children, News Channel 8 Tampa Bay**

Read More

**Off-duty Florida deputy honored for saving 4-year-old from attempted kidnapping in Tampa, WTSP Tampa**

Read More

## Protecting Floridians




**ttling**

Attorney

General Ashley Moody announced a $113 million agreement with Apple, Inc. regarding Apple's decision to throttle consumers' iPhone speeds in order to address unexpected shutdowns in some iPhones. Attorney General Moody is joined by more than 30 other attorneys general in reaching the agreement.

Based on the multistate investigation, Apple allegedly discovered that battery issues were leading to unexpected shutdowns in iPhones. Rather than disclosing these issues or replacing batteries, Apple updated software that reduced iPhone performance in an effort to keep the phones from unexpectedly shutting down.

The attorneys general allege that Apple's decision to throttle the performance of consumers' iPhones led to Apple profiting from selling additional iPhones to consumers whose phone performance Apple had slowed.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Countless Floridians depend on their iPhones daily for necessary professional and personal communication and pay significant fees for this service. It is essential that a widespread and trusted service provider such as Apple provide accurate and reliable information about performance issues

and viable options if service is disrupted. I am proud of this action that will require Apple to be more transparent to consumers and hold them accountable for their actions that negatively impacted many Floridians.” Read More




**Sex Predator**

Attorney

General Ashley Moody’s Office of Statewide Prosecution has secured a life sentence for a Hillsborough county man that engaged in, and promoted, child sex pornography. The jury found Roger Labor guilty of lewd or lascivious molestation, two counts of use of a child in a sexual performance and 50 counts of possession of child pornography. The Honorable Michael Williams of Florida’s 13th Judicial Circuit sentenced Labor to life for lewd or lascivious molestation and a total of 75 additional years for the remaining charges.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “This disgusting excuse of a man will stay behind bars for life, right where he belongs. He is a predator and his actions were beyond vile and repugnant. I am so proud of the Office of Statewide Prosecution’s hard work on this case and for making sure he never victimizes a child again.” Read More

**MFCU Arrests Woman for Defrauding Medicaid More Than $15,000**




Attorney General Ashley Moody’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Levy County Sheriff’s Office arrested a woman for organized fraud and fraudulent use of personal identification information to defraud a Medicaid provider. Carolyn Ausherman allegedly forged fraudulent Medicaid employee service logs, defrauding the Medicaid program out of more than $15,000.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “The Medicaid program provides necessary medical services to our most vulnerable citizens. To purposefully defraud this taxpayer-funded program for personal benefit is a gross injustice and exploitation of the patients dependent upon the care provided by Medicaid. I am confident my Medicaid Fraud Control Unit will continue to work diligently to hold accountable anyone who attempts to defraud the Medicaid program and taxpayer dollars.” Read More