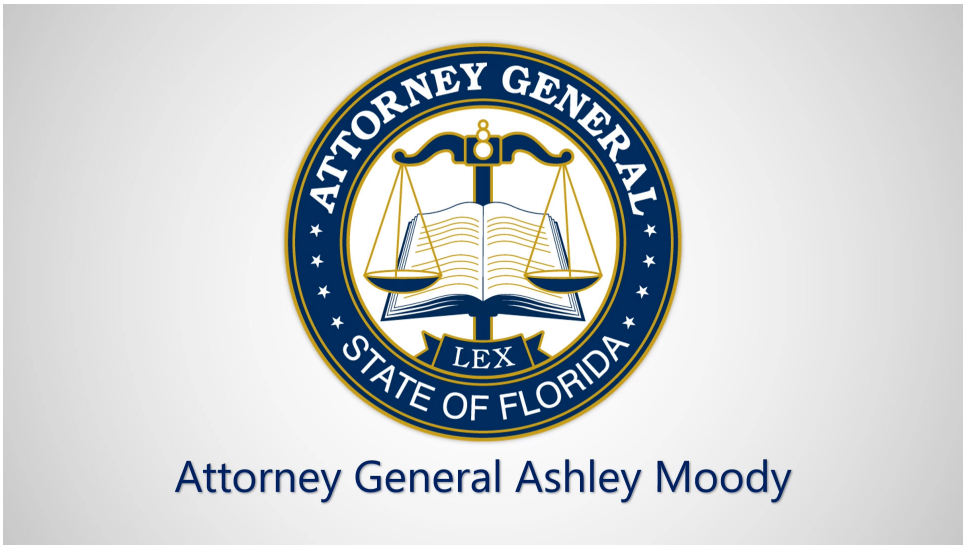
Date July 02, 2021

Attorney General Moody's Week In Review - July 2, 2021



Unimaginable tragedy struck Florida last week as a high-rise condo in Surfside collapsed in the middle of the night. My heart breaks for all of those impacted by this unfathomable disaster, and my prayers are with their families and our first responders working around the clock to locate the missing. I've seen firsthand their bravery and determination—risking their own safety in an effort to rescue others. It's not just Florida first responders—people are traveling from all over the country and the world to help with this enormous undertaking. I've witnessed remarkable generosity and selfless actions by those on the scene of this catastrophe, as efforts to help victims and their families continue into another week.

While these actions are so inspiring, I want to warn Floridians that bad actors may try to take advantage of the situation. I'm urging those who wish to donate to be cautious of scammers exploiting the Surfside building collapse for their own financial profit.

Floridians can guard against charity scams by:

- Contacting the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance at Give.org or Charity Navigator to determine whether a charity has any complaints against

them before donating;
- Researching how the charity uses donations; and
- Refraining from providing banking information to unsolicited calls or emails on behalf of a charity.

For more information on charity scams, check out our new Consumer Alert here.

As many Floridians gather this weekend to celebrate Independence Day, remember to keep those impacted by the Surfside building collapse in your prayers, as first responders will continue to work hard throughout the weekend and beyond to locate those who remain missing.



In The News

Attorney General Moody warns of 'charity scams' related to Surfside collapse, WFLA Tampa

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Watch out for Surfside charity scams and price gouging, WPLG Local 10 News South Florida

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Scam warnings issued following Surfside condo collapse, CBS 12 Palm Beach

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34 face charges following 9-month investigation into Orange County gang violence, Click Orlando

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Protecting Floridians

Medicaid Provider Arrested for Stealing More Than $5,000 from Taxpayer-Funded Program



Attorney General Ashley Moody's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Leon County Sheriff's Office arrested a Medicaid home and community-based services provider. According to an investigation by MFCU, Diane Ellis allegedly defrauded the Florida Medicaid program out of more than $5,000 over the course of three years.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Exploiting the taxpayer-funded Medicaid program, along with the vulnerable patients in need of care, will never be allowed in this state. Excellent work by my Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in bringing this fraudster to justice." Read More

Attorney General Moody Provides Online Safety Tips for Floridians During Internet Safety Month



This National Internet Safety Month, Attorney General Ashley Moody is reminding Floridians to be responsible online. The internet continues to be an important part of Floridian's lives, with even more activity moving online during the COVID-19 pandemic. Sadly, identity thieves, fraudsters, sexual predators and human traffickers also use the internet to commit heinous crimes. It is important to regularly review online safety measures to avoid falling prey to any of these devious online schemes.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "In the internet age, we can buy groceries, clothes, or even a new car with a few clicks of the mouse, but we can also unknowingly invite fraudsters, thieves or even sexual predators into our lives. While the internet can be a great tool to improve our everyday lives, we must make sure we are taking measures to increase the safety and security of our finances and our families online." Read More

Events

This week, Attorney General Ashley M[illegible]efings at the scene of the [illegible]eir search in the rubble





Left picture, from left to right: Bal Harbour Mayor Gabe Groisman, Attorney General Moody, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jose “Pepe” Diaz, Former Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management Jared Moskowitz

Right picture, from left to right: Attorney General Moody and Mayor Groisman

Attorney General Moody thanking first responders for their extraordinary and diligent efforts to locate the missing after the Surfside building collapse.





Left picture, from left to right: Miami Police Department Sgt. Melvin Gonzalez, Attorney General Moody, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Deputy Incident Commander Andy Alvarez, Florida Division of Emergency Management Deputy Director Steven Hynes

Right picture, from left to right: Attorney General Moody and Commander Alvarez

Attorney General Moody speaking at the Florida Police Chiefs Association's Annual Summer Training Conference.

